

WEBSTER
COUNTY
CONSERVATION
BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2010 - 11

BOARD
MEMBERS

YRS.

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Jerry Beck | 6 |
| Beth Collins | 1 |
| Brad Luke | 13 |
| Jim Eslick | 7 |
| Kirk Seltz | 6 |



Mission Statement
It is the mission of the Webster County Conservation Board to preserve our natural resources, to educate the public about the environment, to create learning and recreational opportunities without exploiting our resources, to promote activities that create an awareness or understanding of the environment through programs of conservation and to ultimately develop environmentally responsible citizens of Webster County.

From the Director's Desk

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone, but as I look back over 2011-12, it's been another great year to work in the conservation & recreation field.

Trails have once again taken center stage, as WCCB has partnered with the City of Fort Dodge to complete the trail connection between Fort Dodge and Harlan Rogers Sports Complex.

The Conservation Staff and volunteers have also started work on four public

access sites on Lizard Creek.

The WCCB signed a 20-year agreement with Fort Dodge, Webster County Improvement Corporation, and IDNR for the operation and maintenance of the 800-acre Gypsum City OHV Park. Efforts are underway to add trails and construct a campground.

The board continues to use partnerships to increase staffing. Darren Herzog, Park Ranger has transitioned to the Park Manager at the OHV park and a former intern, Brad Janssen, was hired to fill his Park Ranger position.

The board also hired Andy Stanberg as a Trail/Natural Resource Technician, in partnership with the Fort Dodge Park & Recreation Department. **The year can be summarized by "progress through partnerships"!**

Thanks for supporting WCCB in 2011-12 and we look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2012-13!!

*Sincerely,
 Matt Cosgrove, Director*

2011-12 Highlights...

- ☺ Fort Dodge & Webster County construct 2.47 mile trail to Harlan Rogers Sports Complex.
- ☺ WCCB partners with Webster County Improvement Corporation & IDNR to create a 20-year maintenance and operations plan for the Gypsum City OHV Park.
- ☺ WCCB & WCIC are awarded \$800,000

- to develop a campground at the Gypsum City OHV Park.
- ☺ Construction began on 4 public access sites along the Lizard Creek.
- ☺ WCCB & FD Park & Rec. share a trails/natural resource employee.
- ☺ WCCB approves new logo.
- ☺ Veteran's Memorial Park—Phase II.

Webster County's Natural Areas



Lizard Creek Water Trail

*Buy land,
they're not
making it
anymore.*

Mark Twain

| Area | Acres |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Bob Hay Memorial Wildlife Area | 225 |
| 2. Becker Wildlife Area | 10 |
| 3. Carlson Recreation Area | 126 |
| 4. Deer Creek Wildlife Area | 17 |
| 5. Holiday Creek Wildlife Area | 36 |
| 6. John F Kennedy Memorial Park | 400 |
| 7. Lindquist Wildlife Sanctuary | 7 |
| 8. Liska-Stanek Prairie | 20 |
| 9. Lundgren Church Nature Park | 1 |
| 10. Meier Memorial Marsh | 35 |
| 11. Miller Marsh | 185 |
| 12. Moorland Pond | 23 |
| 13. Prairie Pond | 18 |
| 14. Rossow Prairie | 40 |
| 15. Skillet Creek Indian Mounds | 19 |
| 16. The Diggings | 7 |
| 17. Whispering Wings Marsh | 20 |
| Lizard Creek Access | |
| 18. Lentsch | .28 |
| 19. Cunningham | .28 |
| 20. Rasch | 1.04 |
| TOTAL | 1,190.6 |



Management Agreements

| | Acres |
|------------------------|------------|
| Gypsum City OHV Park | 800 |
| Smeltzer Learning Farm | 157 |
| Smeltzer Gowrie Farm | 40 |
| TOTAL | 997 |

Land Management

2011-12 Land Management Activity

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Native Grass & CRP Seeding | 58.4 acres |
| Private acres seeded with CCB drill | 42.9 acres |
| Prescribed Burning | 15 acres |
| Acres of native seed ordered | 101.3 |
| Bridge & Ditch Clean-out plantings | 20 |
| Trees planted (private) | 785 |
| Canada Thistle spraying (North 1/2 of county) | |
| Leafy Spurge spraying (North 1/2 of county) | |
| Managed County Brush Contract (N 1/4) | \$28,209.24 |

Weed Complaints

2006—21
2007—12
2008—10
2009—7
2010—10
2011—4
2012—6



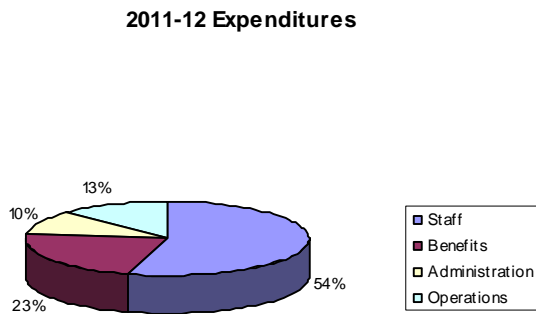
Miller Marsh

WCCB...Financial Report

| EXPENDITURES—General Fund | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Administration | \$478,875 | \$399,220 | \$394,427 |
| Operations & Maintenance | \$ 56,420 | \$ 71,250 | \$ 73,025 |
| TOTAL | \$535,295 | \$470,470 | \$467,452 |

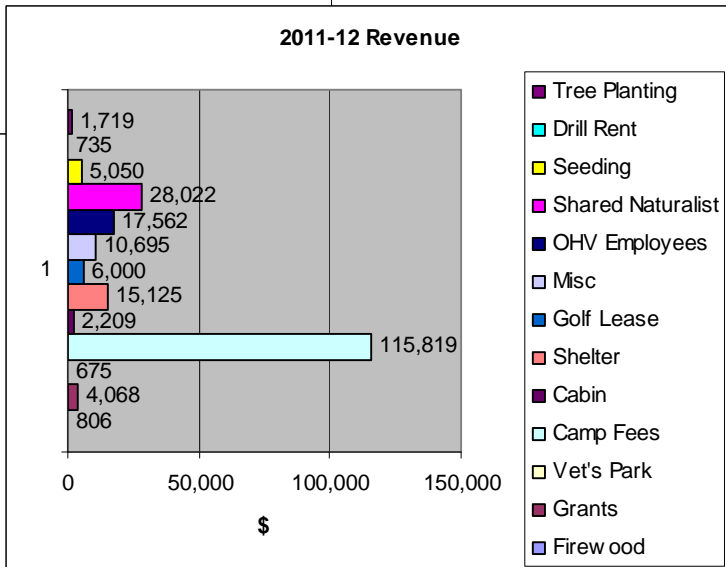
| EXPENDITURES—Rural Basic | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Integrated Roadside Vegetation Mgmt. | \$118,339 | \$121,740 | \$102,601 |

| INCOME | 2011-12 | 2010-11 | 2009-10 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Recreation Fees (Camping, Shelter, rentals) | \$133,869 | \$108,401 | \$96,916 |
| Grants & Reimbursements | \$ 45,784 | \$ 83,361 | \$27,476 |
| Rental (land & equipt) | \$ 16,149 | \$ 13,124 | \$ 7,381 |
| Sale of Wood, Publications, etc | \$ 1,068 | \$ 1,805 | \$ 1,749 |
| Other Income | \$ 6,492 | \$ 9,117 | \$ 7,288 |
| Golf Course Lease | \$ 6,000 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 6,000 |
| TOTAL | \$209,362 | \$221,808 | \$146,810 |

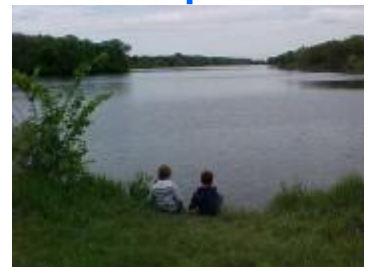


| Special Account Balance | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| REAP Account | \$77,746.36 |
| Conservation Trust | \$98,201.13 |

"Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence." -Hal Borland



Moorland Pond



Badger Lake



Webster County Conservation Board

| STAFF | Yrs. |
|---|------|
| Matt Cosgrove Director | 16 |
| Cody Peterson Operations Supervisor | 6 |
| Pat Shehan Ranger | 13 |
| Darren Herzog Ranger/OHV Manager | 5 |
| Brad Janssen Ranger | .5 |
| Karen Hansen Naturalist | 19 |
| Erin Ford Co./DNR Naturalist | 7 |
| Cindy Knickerbocker Secretary | 22 |
| Dave Scherff Natural Resource Tech. | 27 |
| Andy Stanberg Trail/Nat. Resource Tech. | .5 |

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2011-12 Partners

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources**—Shared Naturalist Position & Gypsum City OHV Park
- Ann Smeltzer Trust**—Iowa Learning Farm & Gowrie Farm
- Daybreak Rotary Club**—16th Annual Dragon Boat Bash
- Noon Sertoma**—Veteran's Memorial Park & Lights At Kennedy
- Webster County Trails Advisory Board**—Trail development planning
- Friends of Webster County Conservation**—Event volunteers & funding assistance
- IDNR**—Water Trails—Lizard Creek Designation
- HyVee**—Half Marathon

- Webster County Pheasants Forever**—Project funding and habitat assistance
- Fort Dodge Young Professionals**—Adventure Race
- Webster County Bowhunters & Archery Assoc.**—3D Archery Shoots & archery instruction
- Iowa High School State Cross County Meet**
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries**—Trout Stocking—Moorland Pond
- Natural Resource Conservation Service**—Badger Creek Watershed planning assistance
- City of Fort Dodge**—Equipment sharing & grant work
- Brushy Creek State Recreation Area**—Equipment sharing
- Badger Lutheran & St. Olaf Lutheran Church Service**—Campground service (Mem. Day—Labor Day)
- St. Edmond High School**—Host Annual Labor Day Walk/Run
- Special Olympics of Iowa**—Polar Plunge