

Story County Conservation Board

April 13, 2020

Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa via conference call

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: Due To Recommendations To Limit Gatherings To No More Than Ten (10) People In Order To Help Slow The Spread Of The COVID-19 Virus, Public Access To The Meeting Will Be Provided Via Conference Call To Listen To The Meeting.

Members of the public who would like to call in:

Dial 515-603-3144 1 Enter 895791# when prompted for the access code

2. CALL TO ORDER: 5:34 PM

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Pease - present

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Craig Meyers - present

Ted Tedesco – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

GUESTS

Amelia Schoeneman

Jerry Moore

Rich Johansen

John Gade

Kurt Friedrich

Rita Conner

4. STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE SECTION 21.8.1

5. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Huxley trail enhancement – Rita Conner with the City of Huxley presented information about a paving project that they currently received bid on. An alternate bid that they requested on the project was to have the parking lot and Heart of Iowa Nature Trail trailhead paved. Rita would like the Story County Conservation Board to consider a cost-share for this portion of the project.

Presentation on Dotson Farms Subdivision – Director Cox explained some of the history regarding this project including the sensitive areas on the property. Members of the board along with Dr. Rosburg and Cindy Hildebrand have helped to develop a set of prescriptive measures that will protect the prairie areas. We have been working with Kurt Friedrich and his team to implement a plan to have development on the property and still protect the resources on the site. Approval of this project must come from the Conservation Board before Story County Planning and Development approves the project. Some proposed plans and documents were available for review and anyone on the phone call could ask questions about the project. Amelia with Story County Planning and Development explained their timeline and approval of this project. Tedesco expressed his concerns about the responsibilities of the Home Owners Association once the development is complete and they become the only agent involved in enforcing the covenants. Mr. Friedrich explained that he believes with all of the different parties that will continue to be involved after the development is complete, that this will not be an issue in the future as is might be with some other development areas. Director Cox requested clarification on the out lots and storm water

retention areas and who would be responsible for these areas. Conservation had some reservations about being responsible for the maintenance on the outlots so the outlots are not being donated. John Gade with Fox Engineering explained that some of the outlots will have laterals from residential lots, or dry storm water basins and will hold the storm water and release it at a slow rate per ordinance. Lot lines have been developed so that surface water from the lots will not drain onto the remnant prairies. A perimeter tile will be placed between lots and sensitive prairie areas. These will bisect any potential lateral ground water from the septic laterals, and route it around the environmental sensitive areas. This item will be scheduled for consideration at the May Board meeting.

7. STAFF REPORT – Ryan Wiemold, Parks Superintendent submitted a written annual report.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 9, 2020. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

March 23, 2020. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

March 30, 2020. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. Director Cox made note that our actual budget for this FY will be different than anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MCU.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox indicated that there are going to be a few items that are going to be over expensed but overall, we are in good shape.

11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Our next board meeting is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>.

12. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Action Forms

1. Vegetation Mgmt. Aide new hire effective 5/4/20, Dylan Childs @ \$11.50/hr.

2. Vegetation Mgmt. Aide rehire effective 5/4/20, Allison Stegmann @ \$12.25/hr.

3. Conservation Aide pay adjustment effective 5/11/20, Hunter Simmons @ \$11.50/hr. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. Murken questioned if these new hires would actually be able to begin working on May 4<sup>th</sup> due to the counties work situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Harrelson explained that she spoke with HR and they wanted us to go ahead and approve these new hires with the notation that their hire date might be adjusted depending on the counties return to work date. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Contract Between Beverley Chance And Story County Conservation Board For Campground Attendant Duties At Dakins Lake From July 13 To November 1, 2020. Combined the motion and approval with item C.

C. Consideration Of Contract Between Joseph Fullerton And Story County Conservation Board For Campground Attendant Duties At Hickory Grove Park From July 13 To November 1, 2020. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. Franz asked if we should add to the list of duties about disinfecting common areas/surfaces. Cox indicated that he

did not think that it needed to be added to the agreement, but we will be asking the campground hosts to do that. Meyers asked if we were contractually obligated to pay the hosts if we continue to have the campgrounds closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cox indicated that we are not obligated to pay them if they are not actually on site working. Tedesco had asked for some correction to be made to the Fullerton contract prior to the meeting being held. Harrelson made the corrections to the original documents. MCU.

- D. Consideration Of The Social Media Policy. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. Director Cox noted the changes that were made from the county policy to the draft copy of the conservation policy. This policy has been reviewed by the county attorney. Conservation uses social media differently than other county departments, so we wanted to have the ability to continue to use it engage users. Franz noted one typographic correction that needed to be made. Harrelson will make that correction on the final document. MCU.

### 13. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox gave an update on the COVID-19 operations and staff updates. He also gave a short progress report on the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor Phase 3 trail project.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Laumer applauded the social media posts/videos that we have been sending out to the public. Franz reported that she has been hiking the parks and trails and continues to work on the 2020 ICCS Conference Executive Committee. Meyers shared that the Outdoor Alliance of Story County will sponsor two students to attend the ICCS Conference. He commented that Hickory is starting to look like a lake again. He has also been working on judging the photo contest submissions. Tedesco reported that he has been observing the progress on the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor Phase 3 trail project. Pease noted that he and Mike have had several phone conversations on current projects.

C. Other – None.

### 14. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1) (j) to discuss the purchase or sale of a particular real estate where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price of the governmental body would receive for that property. MCU with a roll call vote. The board went into closed session at 7:25 PM

The meeting returned to open session at 8:25 PM

ROLL CALL – Present: Meyers, Laumer, Franz, Pease, Tedesco via phone, Murken. Staff: Cox, Harrelson.

Approve Discussion From Closed Session to take no action. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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Recording Secretary

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