

Story County Conservation Board

August 10, 2020 – Postponed to August 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM due to the Derecho storm

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 The Meeting.

Members of the public who would like to call in:

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

2. CALL TO ORDER: 3:04 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

Jerry Keys

Danny Simcox

GUESTS

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 – None.

7. STAFF REPORT – Danny Simcox, McFarland Park Ranger submitted a written annual report and was also available to make comments and answer questions. Director Cox indicated that Peterson Park is one of Danny’s biggest accomplishments. The changes have been incredible and the clientele has changed dramatically. Franz wanted to know if the usage has changed there or at any other parks. Danny indicated that the usage has changed due to COVID-19 and Hickory Grove Lake being down. He does not think that we can specifically quantify the increase in park usage. Pease questioned that the Dakins hydrants were “in progress”. He thought they were completed last fiscal year. Danny explained that we only completed 1/3 of the hydrants and this year, we are completing the rest of them. Meyers asked about the Veterans Memorial at Dakins. Director Cox asked if we could hold off on this discussion and review the proposal until next month. Danny wanted everyone know that the last three hires that were made have been as close to “plug and play” as he has seen. Their skill sets, work ethics and the different ideas that they bring to our staff are phenomenal. It’s going to pay a lot of dividends to us down the road.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 2, 2020.

July 13, 2020.

July 31, 2020. MOTION to approve all three minutes together by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. Pease questioned if the payment to Shive-Hattery for the Praeri Rail Trail is regular payment and the action item later is for an additional amount. Director Cox confirmed. MCU.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Pease noted that this is a new budget year and not many expenses have been realized. He also commented that the camping revenue is higher than he thought it would be.

11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consideration Of Conservation Center Operations And Public Activities Management Protocols: COVID-19. Director Cox explained that we have not been offering any in-person programs since the beginning of the pandemic. This document provides guidelines for SCC to follow once we start outdoor in-person programs. We will not begin any indoor in-person programs until our building is open to the public. Jerry Keys mentioned that he received notification from several schools, that they will not be coming out to McFarland for field trips and they will not allow our Naturalists in the schools. The EE team is working on other avenues to provide outreach. Tedesco suggested that we change the statement at the bottom of the protocol from “Relaxing” to “Changes” of guidelines. MOTION with statement change by Meyers, SECOND by Franz.

B. Action Forms

Outreach Assistant rehire effective 08/17/2020, Paige Henggeler @ \$11.75/hr. Director Cox explained that Paige is still an active employee and not subject to the current Board of Supervisors hiring freeze. She was placed on an inactive status. This action is to change her status to active. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

C. Consideration Of Change Order No. 01 Between Peterson Contractors Inc. And Story County Conservation For The Praeri Rail Trail Paving Project In Zearing In The Increased Amount Of \$3,840.00. There was a requirement for flaggers that was not in the original contract. The Board of Supervisors approved this change order at their last meeting contingent on the Conservation Board’s approval. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

D. Consideration Of Amendment To An Agreement With Shive Hattery, Inc. For Additional Construction Phase Services For Paving A Portion Of The Praeri Rail Trail And Recommendation To The Board Of Supervisors. This item was also approved the Board of Supervisors contingent on the Conservation Board’s approval. The contract work was delayed until spring due to weather, causing additional project oversight and compliance requirement with the Iowa Department of Transportation. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

E. Consideration Of Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail-Slater Connector Final Plans, Specifications And Form Of Contract And Authorization To Release Bids. This item was approved by the Board of Supervisors under Public Hearing contingent on the Conservation Board’s approval. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

F. Consideration Of Hickory Grove Park Road Resurfacing Bid Award To Manatt's, Inc. For \$206,367.12. The bids came in higher than the engineer's estimate and what was budgeted. Manatt's was the low responsive, responsible bidder. At this time, we would not make any adjustments to the budget. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

G. Consideration Of Hiring Hawkeye Truck To Mount A Hydroseeder On A Truck. Removal of the hydroseeder from current truck to a truck received from Secondary Roads. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

### 13. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the Derecho storm damages. The storm shelter was utilized at Hickory Grove. Campers at Dakins lake were directed to the community center in Zearing. Everything worked as it was supposed to. Several RVs at Dakins Lake were damaged. Cleanup at Dakins Lake is going to take some time. Some of the water and electrical pedestals were damaged. All of the parks have tree damages and have been closed. We will open parks as soon as we can get them safe. We are notifying the public regarding closures and openings via our website and social media. We are still assessing the damage and expect to have a FEMA claim. At this time, we are anticipating hiring contractors to help with the debris removal on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. We are reaching out to other counties for additional assistance. We have had a lot of volunteers wanting to help, but we are unable to use them at this time due to safety concerns. Franz suggested contacting Volunteer Iowa to see if they would be able to assist with cleanup. Cox also indicated that the treatment at Hickory Grove went well. Ben Dodd, with the IA DNR, will complete his assessment after the treatment waiting period.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz is working with Erica Place regarding culturally responsive conservation – to reduce barriers for more people to participate in our programs and be part of our projects and parks. She has been listening to webinars on diversity, equity and inclusion in education and conservation. She attended the annual REAP meeting to review grant proposals. There were not any proposals, but two cities were interested in REAP and wanted to know more about the program. Meyers attended the Colo City Council meeting last week and discussed the connection to Hickory Grove and indicated to them that we needed a decision from them at their next meeting. Tedesco has toured many of the properties. He said the TELC had minimal damage from the storm and people were continuing to use the park. He toured the new bike trail with Steve Burgason. Mr. Burgason is working with the Outdoor Alliance to raise money to purchase new, Iowa native trees. Pease has attended several different meetings and projects are moving forward. He also noted that with the storm damage, our staff might be feeling overwhelmed. He wants to make sure that everyone takes time for themselves and relax. Franz asked Pease to have a conversation with Director Cox to see if the Board can do anything to help staff out.

### 14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

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Recording Secretary

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