

Story County Conservation Board  
August 9, 2021  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Christine Laumer – present via phone

Nancy Franz – present

Jim Pease – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

Staci Williams

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Staci Williams, ISG, Inc. introduced herself and thanked the board for considering their contract for design work at Soper’s Mill. Mike Meetz noted that the REAP Grant Committee met before this meeting and reminded the board to submit nominations for the Olav Smedal Conservation Award.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 9, 2021. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

July 12, 2021. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

8. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup>.

9. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Action Forms - Outreach Assistant new hire effective 8/26/21, Sara Qualley @ \$11.25/hr. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Water Trails Development Program Grant Agreement With The Iowa Department Of Natural Resources. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. Pease questioned if this was just for engineering plans. Cox clarified the grant is two-part. One is engineering for launch improvements and the other is the construction of the road access improvements. MCU.

C. Consideration Of Agreement With ISG Inc For Design Services For \$13,200. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. Cox indicated that this agreement is for Soper’s Mill engineering work for the launch improvements. This includes relocating the parking lot and adding a secondary launch point. MCU.

- D. Consideration Of Memorandum Of Understanding With The Cities Of Ankeny, Madrid, Sheldahl, Slater, Woodward, And Conservation Boards Of Boone And Polk County For The High Trestle Trail. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. Pease noted that Dallas and Story County Conservation Boards were left off of the Memorandum. They are included in the MOU. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Agreement With RDG Planning And Design For Master Planning Services For Property Previously Owned By Robert Deppe. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Cox explained that there have been a lot of questions from the public on what we plan to do with this property. At this time, we do not have a plan for this property other than it will be an extension of McFarland Park. The property is going to cost us \$405,000.00 and we will not be competitive for grants until we have a master plan. Cox and Pease suggested that the board hold a work session prior to engagement with RDG to get some of the board's thoughts and visions. Cox noted that he requested RDG to put in an analysis and feasibility for constructing a pond. If we do not have this done, it will reduce the contract amount by \$2,000.00. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Park Naming And Memorial Protocol. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. Franz commented that this will give the board a good decision tool. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of Memorial Bench For Dennis Salisbury At Hickory Grove Park. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

## 10. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the ICCS conference. He asked the board members to work on getting silent auctions items for the conference. Registrations are approximately 95% in. Registrations are down from what we planned, but we are still showing a profit due to sponsorships. The conference committee is aware that some COVID mitigation changes might have to be made. There will be a mask in everyone's welcome bag. Lunches will be a box lunch and the dinners will be buffet style, but we will be served the food. Silverware will also be provided in the welcome bag, so individuals can use those instead of what is provided with the meals. He will send out the spreadsheet that indicates what everyone's roles will be at the conference. The Board of Supervisors is considering a face coverings policy at their meeting tomorrow. He wanted to wait on their decision before making any recommendations to the Conservation Board on adopting a face coverings policy for Conservation employees. Currently, we have exceeded the percentages we used as guidelines previously in our COVID protocol. This protocol was forward-facing for opening. It wasn't backward-looking or contemplating a need to revert. There are three SCC projects that the BOS is moving forward with funding with the money from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). One is the Hickory Grove Sewer, which is waiting on the Iowa Regional Utilities Association to review the updated agreement. Another is the McFarland Lake design and lastly is the Peterson and Anderson stream restoration projects. More projects might be funded by ARP in the future. He thanked the board members for the staff appreciation. It was enjoyed by everyone. He has conducted several tours at TELC. We are going to come up with some handouts to use permanently for tours. They will have information about the conservation practices that were used.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz has been biking on the HOINT and has noticed a huge amount of people using the trail. The High Trestle Trail is currently closed in a section at Slater, so users have discovered the

HOINT by default. Our staff is doing a great job of maintaining the trails. No other board members had anything to report.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

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Recording Secretary

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