

Story County Conservation Board  
March 30, 2020  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. STATEMENT OF NECESSITY OF SPECIAL MEETING PER CODE SECTION 21.4.2(B)  
Pease read the 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.

- Dial 515-603-3144
- Enter access code 89579# when prompted

2. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

3. ROLL CALL – Via Phone

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

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA

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

To slow the spread of COVID-19, and no more than 10 people at a Board meeting and to join by conference call.

6. STATE OF NECESSITY OF A MEETING TO BE HELD ON LESS THAN 24 HOURS NOTICE PER CODE SECTION 21.4.2(B) IF NEEDED

7. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF REVISED TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND POLICIES IN RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC (INCLUDES PROVISION FROM THE FFCRA). Pease provided information regarding the recent updates to the policy by the Board of Supervisors. He also noted that the action the Conservation Board took on the March 23, 2020 meeting to give the Director and the Board Chair authority to accept future changes was not legal to delegate that authority. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz to accept the policy with amendments made by the Board of Supervisors. Laumer questioned using the term “son or daughter” in the policy and wondered about an employee that has legal custody or guardianship of a child that is not a son or daughter. It was determined that under the FFCRA, a “son or daughter” is your own child, which includes your biological, adopted or foster child, your stepchild, a legal ward or a child for whom you are standing in loco parentis – someone with day-to-day responsibilities to care for or financially support a child. Pease would like to add to the following statement to the original motion. "The Story County Conservation Board hereby approves of the latest version of the COVID-19 policy as applying to all SCCB employees. Further, the Story County Conservation Board will accept

further revisions to this policy deemed as necessary by the Board of Supervisors and passed by them over the next three months or the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic." MCU with added statement on a roll call vote.

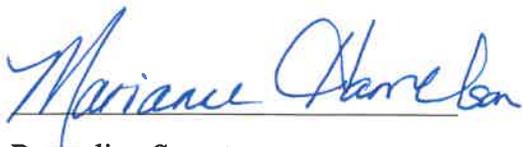
8. UPDATES ON COVID-19

Murken updated the board on the status of the county operations. All non-essential employees were sent home until April 13, 2020. Employees required to perform essential functions are to work from home whenever possible. All county buildings will remain closed to the public except for the certain parts of the Justice Center. Meyers asked if we have enough VPN access for employees to work from home. Murken stated that our IT department is working on a solution for VPN access and providing laptops for work use at home. Franz wanted to know if the board members, Trails Committee, Partners or volunteers could do anything to help with maintaining the parks during this time. Cox indicated that a Ranger will be patrolling the parks every day. Cox thought that it would be a good idea to have volunteers pick up trash and help keep our parks and trails clean while we are limited on staff. Tedesco would like to know if we would consider re-opening our campgrounds for users that have self-contained units that don't need to have use of the park facilities. Cox though that it was a good intent, but right now, feels that the campgrounds would be very heavily used and that social distancing and gathering of less than 10 people would be impractical to expect. He stated that with limiting staff to essential functions only that we do not have the staff available to maintain the park and we don't have the camp host. All reservations have been cancelled through the end of April and at Hickory, since the ranger residence is on site, he is afraid that this will be the "go to" place for questions and they have a sensitive, young, vulnerable family there. Franz wanted to know if we would open ourselves up to legal issues if we provide a place for public gatherings. Cox indicated that this is one of the main reasons that we decided to close the campgrounds. All other parks will remain open at this time. Laumer wanted to know if the April 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be via conference call. Pease indicated that it probably would be, but that will be determined closer to the meeting date. Cox updated the board on what staff members were doing at the EOC – Emergency Operations Center.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board