

Story County Conservation Board  
September 14, 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 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: 5:30 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 – Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator, submitted a written annual report. He reviewed some of the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.

Dakins Memorial Discussion – Danny Simcox, Park Ranger, was available for comments and questions. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the board would not recommend the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be built at Dakins. The board also decided that we need to develop a policy regarding military/war and other group memorials.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 13, 2020. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz. Pease asked about a claim paid to Amazon for grounds maintenance. Harrelson explained that there were several purchases including speed bumps for West Peterson and the water quality testing kits. Pease also questioned a Menards claim for supplies. Harrelson indicated this purchase was for materials to build a bridge over the tubes at Hickory Grove. MCU.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Amendments were from the FY20 budget items moved to FY21.

## 11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

### 12. ACTION ITEMS:

#### A. Action Forms

Vegetation Management Aide seasonal new hire effective 9/15/20, Nolan Emley@ \$11.50/hr.

Promotion from Conservation Aide to Conservation Technician, effective 9/15/20, Hunter Simmons @ \$17.88/hr.

Promotion from Conservation Aide to Conservation Technician, effective 9/15/20, Jacob Smith @ \$18.24/hr.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Proclamation Declaring October 2020 As Watershed Awareness Month. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. Director Cox explained that this has been reviewed by some other jurisdictions that are involved with the Water Quality Monitoring Program. Each of those jurisdictions are bringing this forward to their elected officials. MCU.

C. Consideration Of Conservation Center Use And Indoor Programming: COVID-19. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. Director Cox explained that we would like to consider this phased approach to reopening the Conservation Center. Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator, put this plan together as a phased plan for opening the building and different levels for programming. The percentages were determined by using the same federal guidelines that the schools are using to determine their return plans. The 14-day rolling total is when the total number of positive cases per day is below 100. Phase 1 is opening up the Conservation Center to park users. Phase 2 will allow our staff to conduct indoor programming and Phase 3 will open the center to normal operations. MCU.

D. Consideration Of Funding To Repair Utilities At Dakins Lake Due To The Derecho Storm Event. There was significant damage caused by the Derecho and we need to repair the electrical pedestals and hydrants. We have a FEMA claim started and these repairs would be part of that claim. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

E. Consideration Of Signing A Letter In Opposition To The USFWS Decision To Not Designate Critical Habitat For The Endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee. We were approached by Prairie Rivers to send this letter asking the USFWS to reconsider their decision. Meyers suggested that we make a change to the first sentence, to "denial of designation of critical habitat". MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU as amended.

### 13. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox thanked Craig and Linda for attending the Colo City Council meeting. They have agreed to move forward to draft an agreement to allow us to connect to their sewer. Colo would like the county to pay for a portion of the upgrades to their municipal facility once they reach their capacity. He will be meeting with the Iowa Rural Utilities Association and engineering staff to get them up to speed with the project. Staff has been working hard on the Derecho damages. We will be submitting two damage claims. One is for the Derecho damages and the other is for some hail damage that occurred prior to the Derecho. We are starting the budgeting process for FY22. We will have a work

session at our November board meeting. We requested hiring freeze exemptions for two seasonal staff positions. Cox noted that he will be gone for the October board meeting and Ryan Wiemold will be filling in for him.

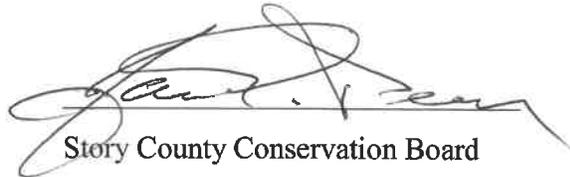
B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Laumer informed the board that she is due the first week of November so her availability might be limited from now on. Tedesco mentioned that Phase 3 of TELC is open and he has received a lot of good comments.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.



Recording Secretary



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