

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, November 5, 2012
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

39744384. Chair Jim Pease called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present by phone
Ted Tedesco – arrived 2:45
Joyce Hornstein - present
Sandy Opstvedt - present
Allen Weber – absent
Wayne Clinton - present (ex-officio)

Staff present: Mike Cox, Jessica Lancial, Heather Hucka, Joe Kooiker, Amy Yoakum, Tiffany Cornelius, Melissa Johannes, Russ DeWall, Beau Hoppe, Ryan Weimold, Dustin Eighmy, Mike Eilderts, Jerry Keys, Carol Williams, Jolene Van Waus

Guests: Darren Moon, Steve Lekwa

3. CONSIDER RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE TO LINCOLN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Director Cox explained that as Story County moves forward with the Dakins Lake expansion project, a bit of land shuffle is necessary. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will sell 2.2 acres, more or less, to the Lincoln Township trustees for cemetery expansion—a location always contemplated west of the cemetery. The conservation board already passed a resolution of support in conveyance of some acreage with the idea that the county would be in possession of the property at the time of the conveyance. Cox added that an appraisal as well as conversion paperwork for the LAWCON grant have been completed for the purchase of 62 acres.

MOTION by Opstvedt, SECOND by Hornstein, to adopt Resolution 2012-07 recommending conveyance of certain real estate to Lincoln Township Trustees. MCU.

4. REVIEW DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PLANS

Pease had several questions/comments regarding the 95 percent plan, including interpretive signs in the campground, wetlands, wetland mitigation, rain garden outlet height/disposition of that water, and the weir structure on the east end of the lake. He will email a complete list of questions to Cox and Special Projects Ranger Williams. Pease questioned what can be done without delaying the plan and still have a positive effect on the project and to the public.

Discussion followed on how to reduce total costs to \$2.5 million. It is not known if the funding from the board of supervisors will include contingency costs. Cox stressed that the project does not have a lot of cushion and pointed out that the owner-provided items listed (almost \$54,000) are just materials—not labor, resulting in quite a bit of lost opportunity costs. Interpretive design is not included; there is still a question on who is doing that. Cox said some significant pieces from the main project must be prioritized and included in the alternate bid plan.

Pease commented that the review committee was in agreement to build as large a lake as possible and provided good water quality. Secondly, we want people to use the park, so campgrounds were deemed an important component. Although camping spaces are limited early on, that plan is to add cabins later. Pease reiterated that he wants to do the best job possible with the big ticket items now with the hope that some items can be added back in. Pease added that he looks forward to everyone's creative ideas.

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Opstvedt, to adjourn the meeting. Pease adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m. MCU.

Williams walked the remaining board members and staff through the Dakins Lake design plan. Discussion followed on interpretive signing, fishing jetty, boat ramps, bathrooms, the natural playground, and rain garden design. Staff were asked to prioritize needs/wants in anticipation of having to make cuts or to have staff complete project tasks. The design plans will be presented to the Zearing community again—either through a public meeting or making the plans available for review.

Comments/concerns should be forwarded to Cox or Williams by November 8. Director Cox will request to attend the board of supervisors meeting on November 13 to discuss how contingency costs will be funded. Approval of the design plan will be on the SCC's November 20 board meeting agenda followed by requested action on the plan at the board of supervisor's December 4 meeting.

Recording Secretary

Conservation Board

Story County