

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, January 20, 2014
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

162828032. Chair J. Pease called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present
Ted Tedesco – absent
Joyce Hornstein – present
Allen Weber – absent
Craig Meyers – present
Wayne Clinton – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox
Jolene Van Waus
Tyler Kelley
Joe Kooiker
Sydney Algreen

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Director Cox introduced Sydney Algreen, SCC's new outreach coordinator. Before graduating from ISU in 2012, Algreen had an internship at SCC. She also worked as a summer naturalist for SCC, at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, and at the Science Center of Iowa. Board members welcomed Algreen to Story County Conservation.

Chair Pease acknowledged staff and Mike Meetz, interested Nevada citizen.

4. ELECTION OF 2014 STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD OFFICERS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, nominating Joyce Hornstein as chair. MCU.

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Meyers, nominating Ted Tedesco as vice-chair. MCU.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Hornstein, nominating Craig Meyers as secretary. MCU.

Pease turned the gavel over to Hornstein, who thanked Pease for his two years as chair.

5. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Hornstein noted the supplemental packet beginning on page 43.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013 board meeting. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013 board meeting. MCU.

8. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox stated that the budget is tracking well at this point of the fiscal year.

10. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The Partners annual meeting on January 25 was announced, and Hornstein noted the next board meeting on February 10.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meetz said that this year's Olav Smedal Award recipient has been selected, and the committee is looking for nominees for next year.

13. APPROVE FIRST READING OF IOWA/NCIC SYSTEMS OPERATIONS POLICY

Cox said that SCC must have a policy in place for use of mobile data terminals before rangers are allowed access to the system. The proposed policy is based on the Story County Sheriff Department's policy, which the county attorney has reviewed and approved. Cox added that if the second reading was waived, SCC could start using the equipment sooner.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve this addition to Story County Conservation's Law Enforcement Policy.

.....MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to waive a second reading of the policy. MCU.

14. IRVM PROGRAM UPDATE

Roadside Biologist Joe Kooiker distributed a spreadsheet of IRVM statistics since the program began in 1987 and gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting activities over the past year.

- Winter included administrative tasks, drainage district work, and equipment maintenance/repairs.
- Spring brought more drainage district work and meetings, getting ready for burn season, and staff safety training preparation. Little burning was done due to weather and other projects. April plantings were washed out by heavy rains, with more of the same in May. LRTF grant proposals were started, and spraying began.
- June was devoted to spraying noxious weeds in the right of way and cutting brush. Drainage ditch work and brush spraying occurred in July. In August, over 159 hours were spent removing brush in drainage ditches. River Bottom Construction repaired IRVM's pole barn, which was damaged by wind in May.

- Prairie seed harvesting started in September and continued through October with 330 pounds of seed harvested. Staff helped with the seeding project at Dakins Lake, seeded roadsides along Lincoln Way, hand harvested seed at Jennett Heritage Area, and seeded an LRTF planting for ISU. More work in drainage districts was done in December.

Kooiker noted that drill rental revenue is down because of fewer CRP plantings. IRVM's goals for the remainder of FY14 include meeting revenue projects for the drainage district program, improving burn season, and seeding bigger areas.

15. CONSIDER BIDS FOR THE DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT, PHASE 2

Cox stated he was very pleased with the bids, which were within project limits. Shive-Hattery is recommending the bid be awarded to the apparent low bidder, Smith Seeding Inc., of Eldridge, Iowa. Subcontractor qualifications also received satisfactory results. Cox explained that there is enough funding (TIF, REAP, trust fund, and conservation reserve) available to award the project with all the alternates. SCC has yet to receive \$175,000 from a LAWCON grant awarded for the buildings, which would replenish some of these funds.

Cox said he is comfortable moving forward with Shive-Hattery's recommendation.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors approval of the bid award and all the alternates to Smith Seeding, Inc. MCU.

16. CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SHIVE-HATTERY

Director Cox confirmed that the agreement secures Shive-Hattery's services through the substantial completion of the project. He is comfortable with the amount and added that there may be savings if the contract goes well, weather cooperates, and the contractor is ahead of schedule.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors approval of Amendment No. 3 of the Professional Services Agreement with Shive-Hattery for Dakins Lake Expansion Project. MCU.

17. CONSIDER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR HICKORY GROVE WATERSHED ENGINEERING

Cox reported that the Hickory Grove watershed project is poised for funding from several sources. Meetings have been held with representatives from the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Story County Environmental Health to discuss movement on the project. A plan drafted through ISU a year ago (and approved by the IDNR) spelled out best management plans in the watershed. Initial plans are being made to request a Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) grant, but decisions need to be made regarding which practices will be applied for from other funding sources. Engineering expertise is needed regarding pond building, stream bank restoration, sediment control structures, etc.

The proposed agreement from Fox Engineering will provide the preliminary engineering needed to obtain funding. It secures services for preliminary design as well as consulting on a current agreement with the IDNR to do shore stabilization work at Hickory Grove. This project is dependent on 16 inches of ice to enable equipment to haul revetment over the lake.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve professional services agreement for Hickory Grove Water MCU.

18. GENERAL UPDATES

Cox will email board members a copy of the County Conservation Director Association's 2014 Legislative Priorities.

The CIRPTA grant proposal to assist in paving a portion of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail from Huxley to Trailridge Park scored well enough to be recommended for funding to the CIRPTA technical committee. The committee will meet in March.

Steve Carter, director of the ISU Research Park, will be at next month's board meeting to give a presentation on their vision/goals and to discuss a possible partnership with SCC.

19. OTHER

Chair Hornstein noted that the director's evaluation needs to be completed. Hornstein and Pease will follow up on this.

Pease said he would like to have a report from the Story County Outdoor Alliance. Mike Meetz announced that Greg Vitale will be giving an update at the Partners annual meeting and that the group would be happy to give a report to the conservation board as well.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, that the meeting be adjourned.

Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board