

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, March 9, 2015
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair Ted Tedesco called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Ted Tedesco – present	Mike Cox	Mike Meetz
Craig Meyers - present	Jolene Van Waus	Marty Jacobs
Allen Weber – present		Allen Thompson
Jim Pease - present		
Nancy Franz - present		
Wayne Clinton – arrived 5:40		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Chair Tedesco welcomed guests and invited them to introduce themselves.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
Tedesco noted the supplemental packet containing claims, a flyer on the spring board member workshop, and staff report plus a “Handbook for Boards and Commission Members” issued by the Story County Board of Supervisors.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2015 board meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to approve claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES
There were no questions or discussion about the financial reports provided in the packet.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
Tedesco reminded board members that the next board meeting is April 13. He expects that the ISU Research Park agreement will be on the agenda. Pease stated he will be absent.
9. COMMUNICATIONS
Pease received a newsletter from Central Iowa Water Association that reported work on several sewer projects. Pease requested that the newsletter be distributed to board members since CIWA is being considered for the sewer project at Hickory Grove Park.
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Guest Mike Meetz brought IDNR non-game posters for distribution.

11. **CONSIDER REAL ESTATE CONTRACT AMONG IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, STORY COUNTY, AND PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Cox explained that Story County Conservation is the holder of a conservation easement on this property with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). The current conservation easement must be amended to allow the church to add a fellowship hall, enlarge the parking lot, and expand the cemetery. The real estate contract also provides for the transfer of a portion of land to Pleasant Grove Church with an easement on that portion for public access to the rest of the property. INHF will transfer the remainder of the property to SCC.

Cox added that the latest version of the contract is being reviewed by the Story County Attorney's office, and he is waiting for a response before proceeding.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to recommend approval of the real estate contract to the Story County Board of Supervisors--dependent on recommendations from the Story County Attorney. MCU.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Jacobs asked about plans for the property and were concerned about hunting in close proximity to the buildings on the site. If hunting is allowed, they encouraged the placement of 200-yard warning signs for public awareness.

Cox remarked that a survey needs to be completed prior to the board of supervisors' approval and planned April 30 closing date.

12. **CONSIDER FIRST READINGS TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, CHILD SAFETY HANDBOOK, AND SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Proposed changes for each document were reviewed. Addition of page numbers and wording changes in 10.1 were made to the By-laws, and formatting changes and updated floor plans were suggested for the severe weather and fire escape plans in the Safety and Health Management Policy.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve first readings of Story County Conservation Board By-laws, Rules and Regulations, Child Safety Handbook, and Safety and Health Management Policy with the additional suggested changes. MCU.

Tedesco assigned board member Franz to review all these documents and present more concise documents for consideration.

13. **GENERAL UPDATES**

Director Cox asked board members to notify the office to sign up for the spring board member workshop on April 18. Tedesco said he will attend; Weber, Pease, and Franz have other commitments that day.

Cox announced that the Water Quality Institute grant submitted by Prairie Rivers was approved at the funding requested.

Cox reminded board members that the cash flex benefit offered to county employees is being discontinued effective July 1. The board of supervisors will be offering an enhanced health benefit package that should be appealing to more employees. Clinton added that the board will take action on this proposal for non-union employees at their meeting tomorrow; negotiations with bargaining units are ongoing. The supervisors hope that a more attractive health insurance package will help recruit new employees. Open enrollment for selecting FY16 benefits will occur in May. Board members discussed the possibility of losing current staff because of the discontinuation of flex cash and encouraged the director to keep lines of communication with staff open.

Progress is being made by the administrative staff to begin online program registrations and payments this spring. Financial Data Manager gave a brief explanation of the process to date and projected phases for implementation. She credited Administrative Assistant Melissa Johannes for her extensive work in adding content and experimenting with the mycountyparks.com website to offer this service to the public.

14. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Pease has not prepared a statement regarding a closed hunting season for mountain lions. The proposed bill in the legislature is no longer on the floor.
- Franz announced that the trails committee re-scheduled their March 26 meeting to April 2 to allow committee members to attend a presentation by the Outdoor Alliance of Story County. Franz also reported that she attended the Partners meeting last week.
- Tedesco reported that he and director Cox attended a county comprehensive planning meeting and represented conservation needs. Cox added that a consultant has been hired to develop the county's plan.

15. OTHER

Tedesco has completed the evaluation form for the director and asked that board members send him their general comments as soon as possible. After he meets with Cox, he will submit the completed evaluation to the county's human resources director.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board