

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, May 4, 2015
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair Ted Tedesco called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Ted Tedesco – present	Mike Cox	Nicki McCollough
Craig Meyers - present	Jolene Van Waus	
Allen Weber – present	Luke Feilmeier	
Jim Pease – present	Amy Yoakum	
Nancy Franz - present		
Wayne Clinton – present		
3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**
Chair Tedesco welcomed staff and guest.
4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS**
The natural resources update was moved ahead in the meeting prior to Communications.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2015 board meetings. MCU.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015 board meeting. MCU.
7. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS**
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.
8. **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES**
Director Cox reported that budget expenditures are on track for this time of the fiscal year.
9. **SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**
Tedesco reminded board members that the next meeting is on June 8.
10. **NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE**
Amy Yoakum gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting natural resources work during the past year.

Yoakum secured a Wildlife Diversity Grant from the Iowa DNR to hire a Conservation Corps Iowa (CCI) crew for three days to clear a prairie remnant at Dakins Lake. Honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, and buckthorn were removed. Iowa Prison Industries worked at the I-35 Prairie Area to control wild parsnip, and staff sprayed knotweed in Ames city parks. Other invasive species removal by staff and volunteers included oriental bittersweet, Japanese hops, water clover, garlic mustard, thistles, and reed

canary grass throughout the county. Funds were also budgeted in FY15 for 12 days of CCI work at Hickory Grove, Christiansen Forest Preserve, Robison Wildlife Acres, Dakins Lake, and Doolittle Prairie. Additional natural resource aides will be hired this summer.

The prairie haying program will continue this year, and goats are returning to Robison Wildlife Acres to control invasive species. ISU students checked on the goats mid-week last year. Other volunteer help came from service learning projects, United Day of Caring, and several youth groups.

Yoakum gave presentations to various ISU groups, local organizations, and the National Association of Interpreters Regional Conference. She coordinated attendance at the ISU Ag Career Day and worked with several ISU classes on forestry and ecology projects. Yoakum attended several workshops and trainings, including the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Workshop. Yoakum served on the IACCBE Winterfest committee and is currently president of District I.

A breeding bird survey was done last year from Soper's Mill north to E-18. Over 70 bird species were documented. Tyler Harms will complete a baseline survey of Roland Wildlife Area this year.

Yoakum's current projects include the following:

- Working with Mike Bevins, Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs, to collect seed from SCC areas to grow plants.
- Discussing options for a prairie seed nursery at IDNR State Forest Nursery.
- Partnering with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on oxbow restoration project at Jennett.
- Helping locate trees/wood to be chipped for compost in disposal of dead birds affected by the Avian flu.
- Working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the IDNR on a pollinator project. I-35 has been identified as an important monarch butterfly corridor, which may result in funding for pollinator seed mix to be used in Story County.
- Working on a wetland enhancement project with the IDNR to repair tile blowouts, re-route tile, etc. to keep water in the wetland
- Managing the budget ledger and work documents for the WIRB grant for Hickory Grove Lake, conducting an Indiana bat survey prior to tree removal, completing tile search, working on plans for additional goose control, and removing invasive species in gullies.
- Holding a workshop on emerald ash borer for land managers. A wasp watcher program will be offered this year for volunteers to assist in monitoring wasp nests catching these beetles as a tool to detect and map the spread of EAB.

Ongoing projects include:

- Working with job shadow students, managing research requests, hand-collecting prairie seed, and creating/updating management plans.
- Working on the Natural Resource Comprehensive Plan; ISU Research Park project, and WQI grant proposal.
- Assisting with selection of seed mixes, trees and shrubs, and rain garden species at Dakins Lake.

Board members remarked that Yoakum is very busy. They thanked her for her report and all she does for SCC.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Tedesco read a thank you note from Joyce Hornstein for the art work presented to her honoring her ten years of service on the Story County Conservation Board.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. CONSIDER FINAL PLANS AND AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HICKORY GROVE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to recommend approval of final plans for Hickory Grove Watershed Improvements, Phase I, to the board of supervisors and authorize solicitation of bids. MCU.

Cox added that bids for the project will be opened at the Story County Board of Supervisors meeting on June 2. Anticipated completion date of the project is October 2015.

13. CONSIDER PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT/CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Cox stated that the Hickory Grove Watershed Improvement project is being completed on the Jamison's property.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve a performance agreement/conservation easement between Robert & Joanie Jamison and Story County Conservation for Hickory Grove Watershed Improvements. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF LUCAS FEILMEIER AS A PEACE OFFICE

Chair Tedesco read the statement of appointment, and Lucas Feilmeier was sworn in by reciting the affirmation of statement. Board members and the director congratulated Feilmeier on his appointment.

15. CONSIDER STAFF PAY ADJUSTMENTS

Cox stated that he wanted to recognize two staff for exemplary service to Story County Conservation and asked the board to consider a 3 percent salary adjustment for both.

Special Projects Ranger Carol Williams has spent a great deal of her time the last three years managing the Dakins Lake Expansion project. In addition to securing grant funding, Cox added that Williams has done a superb job in working with consultants, contractors, other staff, and the public to help build the county's first new park since the 1970s.

Park Ranger Ryan Wiemold has also been exceptionally involved in the Dakins Lake Expansion project and has managed seeding, erosion control, fish habitat, tree planting, campsite construction, and playground installation. In addition, Wiemold assumed management duties and park operations for the Indian Creek Unit while that unit's park ranger position was vacant or in training. Wiemold will continue his leadership role in the coming months while providing field training to Park Ranger Feilmeier.

MOTION BY WEBER, SECOND BY PEASE, to approve 3 percent salary increases for Special Projects Ranger Carol Williams and Park Ranger Ryan Wiemold effective May 4, 2015. MCU.

16. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF REVISIONS TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION RULES AND REGULATIONS, CHILD SAFETY HANDBOOK, AND SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT POLICY
Several typographical errors were noted and corrected. Cox thanked Franz for her all her work in updating and formatting the documents.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz, to approve second readings of Story County Conservation Rules and Regulations, Child Safety Handbook, and Safety and Health Management Policy. MCU.

18. GENERAL UPDATES

Dakins Lake - Cox reported that the contractor is still completing items on the punch list. Cox anticipates that the park will be open for Memorial Day weekend with a formal opening/dedication event in mid-June. Cox will keep the board informed as plans come together.

Pease asked if the project is within budget. Cox replied that SCC is in a good financial position and added that he would provide an update on funding and expenses at the June board meeting.

ISU Research Park Agreement - Cox is still working with the research park and one of the tenants on the land description. He shared possible options with the board, including funds for stream mitigation or selection of different lots.

19. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz reported that the Partners Spring Festival held yesterday was a great event with about 400 people in attendance.
- Meyers will be attending a meeting of the Outdoor Alliance of Story County next week. The group plans to discuss projects to build their identity.
- Tedesco noted that a memorial service for founding board member Bill Horine will be held at the conservation center on May 31.
- Tedesco reported that he and the director attended two IWill events at the Capitol. It appears that the bill will not move forward in the Legislature this year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board