

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, June 8, 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	None
Craig Meyers - present	Jolene Van Waus	
Allen Weber – present	Carol Williams	
Jim Pease – present		
Nancy Franz - present		
Wayne Clinton – present		
3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Chair Tedesco welcomed Special Projects Ranger Carol Williams.
4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS**

Tedesco noted supplemental packet information found on pages 44-46 and announced that Williams’ report would occur before action items on the agenda.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 board meeting. MCU.
6. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS**

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.
7. **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES**

Director Cox reported that approximately \$43,000 in salaries, benefits, and operating expenses will remain in the Conservation budget at the end of the FY15 budget year.
8. **SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**

Tedesco reminded board members that the next meeting is July 13 at 5:30. The Dakins Lake dedication is scheduled for June 27 at 10:30 a.m. Director Cox said there were be some short comments, a ceremonial seed planting, and a community picnic to celebrate the expanded park.
9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Pease brought forward two items highlighted in today’s IACCB newsletter: 1) REAP was approved by the Legislature at \$16 million; 2) IWill was introduced in the House, so it is viable for the 2016 session. Franz noted that an article regarding 12 principles of governance was also included in the newsletter.
10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

11. SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Carol Williams gave a PowerPoint presentation on special projects over the last year:

- Williams is happy to have Park Ranger Luke Feilmeier certified and fully involved in law enforcement. One ranger is on duty each weekend, with the summer park aide assisting during the week. Conservation Technician Danny Simcox serves as a backup, and Williams added that SCC receives support from the other law enforcement agencies in the county. Laptop computers are functional in the law enforcement vehicles, and Story County Dispatch can follow each ranger's location. Ticket-writing capabilities still need to be implemented, but Williams is pleased with the final result.
- After initial planning started in November 2011, the first camper arrived at the expanded Dakins Lake on May 22, 2015. There weren't as many campers as anticipated, but many families have been visiting the park. Williams said improved signage will help people choose their camping sites/amenities.

The Iowa DNR electroshocked the lake the first week of June and found nice growth on the fish—and the clearest water in central Iowa!

The contractor's final punch list was completed last week, and SCC signed off on substantial completion of the project. Some small items remain unfinished--mostly cleaning of grout, etc. The rain garden still needs to be planted, and new trees are in good shape. Williams shared a tentative schedule for the grand opening on June 27.

- Both the fall 2014 and spring 2015 Partners festivals were successful and well attended. Plans are in full swing for the 2015 fall festival on October 4. Williams said she has some concerns about a drop in Partners memberships and will evaluate donations more closely after summer programs are over. With the implementation of on-line registration, a 10 percent discount on all programs is being offered to Partners members.
- Work on the South Skunk River Water Trail continues. Mimi Wagner is handling reports for the IDNR. Steering committee meetings are being held this summer and fall. If board members are interested in serving, they should contact Williams. Williams is also working with the IDNR on improvements at the 265th Street and Lewka accesses.
- The trails committee holds about four work days each year. The May TEAM day will be at McFarland Park, and two more workdays are planned for this park in the fall to re-route some trails. Williams commented that steps in the park were built with creosote-treated railroad ties over 30 years ago and need repairs and improvements--something that staff and volunteers have not been able to devote time and manpower to yet.
- Story County Conservation was fortunate to have two ISU interns work on a trail plan this year. Their GIS files will be useful for Story County's C2C project. Williams added that the interns were easy to work with and got some updates done for SCC.
- Huxley is letting bids for one mile of paving on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. Huxley was successful in obtaining grant funds through CIRPTA for this project.
- Williams was involved in Story County co-hosting the Local Food Cycle event last fall

and is sharing information with Prairie Rivers of Iowa as they take over the project.

- Story County Conservation is a partner of the Plant.Grow.Fly. initiative through the Blank Park Zoo, which encourages citizens and organizations to become aware of and preserve pollinators.

Board members joined Chair Tedesco in thanking Williams for her leadership on the Dakins Lake expansion project this past year and for everything else she does for SCC.

12. CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT OF BENJAMIN MARCUS

Cox explained that Marcus has been chosen to fill the conservation technician vacancy at McFarland Park. Cox added that Marcus was a previous summer park aide with SCC.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve employment of Benjamin Marcus, effective June 15, 2015. MCU.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY16 COST-OF-LIVING SALARY INCREASES FOR STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFF

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber, to approve a 2.25 percent cost-of-living salary increase for Conservation staff for FY16. MCU.

14. CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF ZEARING FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES FOR DAKINS LAKE

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to recommend approval of an agreement with the City of Zearing for water and wastewater services for Dakins Lake to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

15. CONSIDER CHANGE ORDER #5 TO CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT, PHASE 2

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to recommend approval of change order #5 with Smith Seeding, Inc. for the Dakins Lake Expansion Project, Phase 2, to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

16. CONSIDER AMENDMENT #6 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to recommend approval of amendment #6 with Shive-Hattery for the Dakins Lake Expansion Project, Phase 2, to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

17. CONSIDER BIDS FOR HICKORY GROVE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENTS

Cox distributed a spreadsheet comparing budgeted funding and the higher bid amount. A total of \$108,000 is needed from Conservation and the Board of Supervisors to supplement grant funds. After conferring with Supervisor Sanders, Cox will request unexpended funds in the FY15 Conservation budget towards the project.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that they award the contract for Hickory Grove Watershed Improvements, Phase I, to Smith Seeding, Inc. for \$402,869. MCU.

18. CONSIDER CONTRACT FOR TREE REMOVAL AND FENCE INSTALLATION FOR HICKORY GROVE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve a contract with Bob Jamison for tree removal and fence installation for Hickory Grove Watershed Improvements, Phase I. MCU.

19. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A TRAIL DRAG

The director shared a product flyer for equipment that can be used to maintain the county's limestone trails. Cox explained that the trail drag can be pulled by a pickup or a tractor, it will go faster, and it can be driven on roadways. This equipment would cost \$7,228 without the hydraulic unit, and it could potentially be shared with Marshall County for use on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail.

MOTION BY Weber, SECOND BY Franz, to approve the purchase of a trail drag for limestone trail maintenance in the FY16 budget year. MCU.

20. GENERAL UPDATES

Cox reported on the following

- ISU Research Park Agreement – Tedesco, Pease, Cox, and Supervisor Sanders met with research park staff re: additional acres of land requested by one of the businesses in the research park. Negotiations are ongoing among all the parties.
- A memorandum of understanding was received from the Army Corps of Engineers re: property in the Skunk River Greenbelt. The county attorney is reviewing this document. Cox hopes to bring it forward at the next meeting.
- An outline of the county's C2C Plan was distributed and discussed briefly.

21. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz reported that the next TEAM day is at Soper's Mill. She also shared information on the Ames Passport program, which provides opportunities and activities for families to visit different city parks.
- Meyers will be attending an Outdoor Alliance of Story County meeting next week. He added that the group is looking at potential projects with SCC.
- Tedesco urged board members to complete the C2C survey survey.
 - Clinton reported that over 150 employees are participating in the county's new health insurance option (70 percent participation). There are still challenges with the flex benefits changes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.