

Story County Conservation Board
March 14, 2016
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

34029120. Ted Tedesco, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Craig Meyers - absent
Nancy Franz – present via phone
Allen Weber – present
Ted Tedesco – present
Jim Pease – present
Wayne Clinton – present

STAFF

Mike Cox
Jolene Van Waus
Jerry Keys
Beth Waage
Jessica Lancial

GUESTS

Mike Meetz
Nancy Henry

45608752. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Tedesco welcomed guests and invited them to introduce themselves.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Tedesco announced that the IAN update by Jerry Keys would be presented after Communications.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 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

Board members remarked that the budget looks to be in good shape for this time of the year.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tedesco noted the public hearing on the FY17 budget proposal tomorrow (March 15) at 10:00 a.m.; board meeting on April 11; SCC volunteer recognition dinner on April 14; and Outdoor Alliance of Story County fundraising kickoff meeting on March 22 where Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation President Joe McGovern is the guest speaker.

9. IOWA ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS AWARD

Environmental Education Coordinator Jerry Keys read Story County Conservation's nomination of Mike Meetz for a volunteer award from the Iowa Association of Naturalists. The nomination noted Meetz's numerous and varied contributions to Story County conservation groups, including Master Conservationist program leader, Halloween Hike volunteer, board member, trails committee member, 3rd grade birding field instructor and marsh walks host, IRVM seed collector, TEAM days volunteer, hunter education instructor, and kestrel nest box monitor. Keys and Naturalists Waage and Lancial presented the award to a surprised Meetz. The board joined staff in congratulating Meetz on this honor.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz thanked the board and environmental education staff for allowing him to use teaching materials for hunter education classes, asked for nominations for the 2016 Olav Smedal award, and reminded the board of the upcoming photo contest deadline.

Nancy Henry, Colo, was in attendance to receive information about the county's C2C plan and hear about what is happening with trails in the county. She added that Colo residents are interested in providing a trail system to Hickory Grove Park.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH FINCH LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Pease, to approve a grazing lease agreement with Finch Livestock Exchange. MCU.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH GOATS ON THE GO
MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Pease, to approve a grazing lease agreement with Goats on the Go. MCU.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH LURED IN BAIT AND TACKLE
Cox noted that the contract will include firewood and bait sales at both Hickory Grove Park and Dakins Lake. SCC will receive 8 percent of gross revenue; no ash will be sold at Hickory Grove. Cox added that SCC received around \$2,000 in revenue from firewood sales in the past; however, it took a lot of staff time to split and handle wood.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to approve a concession contract with Lured in Bait and Tackle for 2016. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT CONTRACTS FOR 2016
Cox said staff were happy with the number of candidates who applied this year and being able to offer split contract periods.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve a Hickory Grove Campground Attendant Contract with Kevin and Davette Anderson for April 4-October 30, 2016; a Dakins Lake Campground Attendant Contract with Jeff Wells for April 4-July 10, 2016; and a Dakins Lake Campground Attendant Contract with Rod and Valerie Schmitt for July 11-October 30, 2016. MCU.

15. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF SCCB LAW ENFORCEMENT
MANUAL

Cox said this addition to SCC's law enforcement manual is a copy of the Story County Sheriff's Department policy with applicable changes to staff.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz, to approve a first reading of revisions to the Story County Conservation Law Enforcement Manual to include a section on mobile video recorders. MCU.

16. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF SCCB BY-LAWS

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve a second reading of SCCB By-Laws. MCU.

17. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF SCCB RULES AND REGULATIONS

Cox reported that the Story County Attorney's office advised that in Chapter IV: Story County Conservation Rules – General, possession of firearms is permitted but use is prohibited. Therefore, the words “possession or” in 4.4 should be stricken.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to approve the second reading of SCCB Rules and Regulations with this amendment to Chapter IV. MCU.

18. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STORY COUNTY C2C PLAN

Franz said she was glad to see changes made to Chapter 4, but there are still inconsistencies in the use of the words policies and strategies. She suggested that those terms be defined at the beginning of each chapter so readers can interpret them accordingly. She appreciated the inclusion of local photographs. Cox added that there are a few unclear sentences, and some of the objectives are almost the same and could be synthesized. The C2C Plan task force is meeting tomorrow, and Cox will bring these concerns forward for the final review by Planning and Zoning Commission scheduled for April and approval by the board of supervisors in May.

Referring to the maps in Appendix D, Cox showed possible trail routes to Hickory Grove Park from Colo, including a hard-surfaced trail. There was discussion regarding problems crossing four-lane Highway 30 and the possibility of adding a trail in the future when/if there is road construction. Tedesco suggested that the Colo group work with the SCC Trails Committee.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz, to recommend approval of Chapter 4 and Appendix D of the Story County C2C Plan with the caveat that there will be changes in wording--especially with the terms goals/objectives and strategies/policies. MCU.

19. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Cox reported that bargaining unit staff unanimously ratified the agreement. Some issues (including placement of some staff on the pay plan) were resolved in mediation. An exhaustive, comprehensive review was done with like-sized counties as the basis for the pay plan brought forward and accepted. The minimum pay range was increased for several positions, which affected the pay ranges. Cox added that the agreement gives the conservation board full management.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve a collective bargaining agreement between Story County, Iowa, Conservation Board and Public, Professional & Maintenance Employees Local 2003 (Conservation Unit), July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018). MCU.

Cox stated that he is working with Human Resources to calculate management staff salaries for the board's approval.

Board members congratulated Director Cox for all his hard work in negotiating the agreement. Cox acknowledged the board of supervisors for funding the consultant who represented the Story County in drafting the agreement.

20. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO AMEND AGREEMENT WITH SHIVE-HATTERY FOR DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION

Cox explained that the proposed amendment to the agreement with Shive-Hattery includes the construction document for extension of the Praeri Rail Trail through Zearing along Center Street to Dakins Lake. The amendment also addresses requirements for a grant received from CIRTPA and will advance the project through design, bid letting, and permitting. IDOT engineers are working to resolve issues with intersections, and Cox added that there is funding available from the FY16 general budget, grants, and TIF.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Pease, to recommend approval of Amendment #7 to the Professional Services Agreement with Shive-Hattery for Dakins Lake Expansion to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

22. GENERAL UPDATES

Cox reported on the following:

- The ISU Research Project is moving forward. A meeting has been held with a storm water management expert, and another meeting is scheduled with representatives from several agencies to discuss streambank work and stabilization projects.
- Central Iowa Association received word that the City of Colo did not approve CIWA's application for a wastewater treatment permit. CIWA and SCC will attend the Colo City Council meeting in April to answer questions and ask for reconsideration of the permit. Otherwise, options for in-park sewage treatment may need to be considered. Cox will keep the board posted.
- Paperwork for the Dakota Access Pipeline easement has been received. Since the Iowa Utilities Board has approved the pipeline, the conservation board will need to decide whether to allow an easement to cross the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail.

23. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz reported that the Partners annual meeting was a success, and Franz thanked Board Chair Meyers and Director Cox for their involvement. Franz, Cox, Outreach Coordinator Eaves, and Natural Resource Specialist Yoakum have begun Service Enterprise Initiative training to place and train volunteers and enhance community engagement through volunteering.
- Tedesco reported that the City of Ames approved the completion of the Skunk River Trail from River Valley Park to Highway 30.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.
Acting Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.