

Story County Conservation Board
July 11, 2016
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

0. Chair Craig Meyers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Nancy Franz – present

Allen Weber – present

Ted Tedesco – absent

Jim Pease – absent

Wayne Clinton – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

None

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2016 board meeting. MCU.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox commented on FY16 year-end expenses and revenues. With only a couple of weeks into the FY17 budget, there was not much to report.

7. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Chair Meyers noted an upcoming Partners Advisory Committee meeting on July 21 and the next board meeting on August 8. The deadline for the fall conference registration claim is August 2; Franz and Meyers plan to attend this conference.

8. CONSIDER FY17 STEP ADJUSTMENTS AND LONGEVITY INCREASES

A list of proposed step and longevity increases for Conservation staff was presented. Cox added that exempt employees may receive a 1-3 percent increase based on their annual evaluation.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve proposed step and longevity adjustments for Story County Conservation employees for fiscal year 2017. MCU.

9. CONSIDER REAP-CEP EDUCATION GRANT AGREEMENT

Director Cox explained that a “Planting the Seeds” grant was awarded last December, but the agreement was never approved by the board.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve an agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for REAP-CEP education grant #16-15. MCU.

10. CONSIDER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR STORY COUNTY IRVM

Cox commented that updated management plans for all state IRVM programs are required by the IDOT to be eligible for Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) grants.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve the 2016 Story County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

11. CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH MIDWEST SPRAY TEAM & SALES, INC.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to recommend approval of contract with Midwest Spray Team & Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$20,000 for brush control to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

12. CONSIDER DWELLING UNIT RENTAL AGREEMENT AT 2919 SOUTH RIVERSIDE DRIVE, AMES, IOWA

Two agreements are proposed to rent houses at the research park from Iowa State University. Cox added the agreements should only be needed for a matter of weeks before the property is transferred to Story County.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve a rental agreement at 2919 South Riverside Drive, Ames, Iowa, between Iowa State University Research Park and Story County Conservation. MCU.

13. CONSIDER DWELLING UNIT RENTAL AGREEMENT AT 2809 SOUTH RIVERSIDE DRIVE, AMES, IOWA

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve a rental agreement at 2809 South Riverside Drive, Ames, Iowa, between Iowa State University Research Park and Story County Conservation. MCU.

14. CONSIDER SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT WITH AMERICORPS NCCC

Cox stated that the AmeriCorps crew will arrive July 22 and stay at the house located at 2919 South Riverside Road.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve an agreement between AmeriCorps NCCC and Story County Conservation. MCU.

15. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox gave the following updates:

- Praeri Rail Trail Extension – A preliminary cost opinion from the engineers came in \$160-\$170,000 over budget. Cox is considering several options to increase income and reduce expenses for the project. Cox met with Zearing’s pro-tem mayor to discuss the trail to Dakins Lake. Due to higher-than-expected land acquisition costs, an easement may be considered. A meeting with Supervisor Chitty and the Zearing Coop has also identified a possible alternate trail route which would result in significant savings. The director will also be meeting with the Colo-Nesco superintendent to discuss issues with bus traffic and sidewalks. Cox added that many sidewalks in town need to be widened, repaired, or replaced to meet ADA and IDOT specifications for the trail.

- ISU Research Park Engineering Agreement – Cox is still working on a contract with Shive-Hattery.
- The application period for the park ranger position closed last week. Cox said 37 applications were received, and three candidates have been selected for interviews.
- The review meeting for habitat stamp grant applications will be held this Friday. SCC submitted a \$335,000 proposal towards land acquisition for Jordan Wildlife Area. Cox reported that competition is stiff this year, and he will keep the board posted.
- ISU Research Park – A workday to clean out the house at 2919 South Riverside was held on July 9. Cox reported that a lot of progress was made. Three trailers of trash were disposed of that day; the basement has not been cleaned out yet. Franz helped with the sorting and cleaning and remarked that staff assisting were hard working and in good humor. Cox has scheduled an inspection with a HVAC contractor on Wednesday, and carpet in both houses will need to be removed and replaced.

16. BOARD REPORTS

Franz attended the Story County Trails Advisory Committee meeting last week along with Director Cox. There was discussion among the group on past procedures and new roles, updated by-laws, and leadership adjustments due to staff changes.

Meyers announced that a staff appreciation day is being planned and added that Jeff Taylor has volunteered to host the event again. Director Cox will work with staff to select a date.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.
Chair Meyers adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board