

Story County Conservation Board
December 11, 2017
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair Nancy Franz called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Nancy Franz – present

Jim Pease – present

Craig Meyers – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Christine Laumer - present

Rick Sanders - present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz reported that the Big Bluestem Audubon Society is holding their pre-winter bird count meeting at the conservation center on December 14. He also shared that the annual Olav Smedal Award will be announced soon.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox reviewed expenditures to date for the fiscal year, noting unanticipated repair and maintenance expenses and the shops and residences.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Franz noted the legislators reception being held on December 15. The FY19 budget worksession is January 18 at 9:00 a.m.

9. CONSIDER 2018 STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING DATES

Board members reviewed the proposed schedule, correcting the June meeting date to the 11th and rescheduling the November meeting to the 5th.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve corrected Story County Conservation Board meeting dates for 2018. MCU.

10. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION 2018-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

Meyers suggested several wording changes to the document. Sanders remarked that is impressed with the document and the process taken to complete it.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the second reading of the Story County Conservation 2018-2020 Strategic Plan with corrections. MCU.

11. CONSIDER CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR TEDESCO ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CORRIDOR CONSTRUCTION

Cox explained that this is the first change order to the contract, which included hauling 40 loads of fieldstone for streambank restoration and the removal of sediment in the existing stormwater wetland.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that they approve Change Order #1 between Story County and Peterson Contractors, Inc. for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Bid Package #1 for \$23,470. MCU.

12. CONSIDER STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION FY19 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cox reviewed changes discussed at the November meeting as well as updates he made to funding sources. Cox submitted FY19 CIP requests to Leanne Harter.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the Story County Conservation FY19 Capital Improvement Plan. MCU.

13. CONSIDER CONSERVATION AND IRVM FY19 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Cox reviewed updates/adjustments made since the board reviewed a draft of the proposal in November, including Facilities Management requests for conservation center repairs/maintenance, a tape recorder for board meetings, and the need for a combine for the IRVM program. After discussion, the board recommended adding \$12,000 to the FY19 IRVM budget proposal for a combine and amending into the FY18 budget if grant funds are secured.

Cox also reviewed the list of proposed expenditures utilizing Energy Transfer Funds through FY20. When funds are needed, requests will be approved by the board of supervisors.

Cox remarked that the timeline for the Hickory Grove Lake project has changed. Draw down of the lake is anticipated in early July now, with completion of the project by June 2019. Ideally, the new beach house can be built in late winter 2018-19 while the lake is undergoing restoration. Sanders suggested having a celebration on July 4, 2018 at the park before the lake is drained.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the Conservation and IRVM FY19 budget proposals to submit to the county auditor as amended. MCU.

14. GENERAL UPDATES

Cox reported on these additional items:

- Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor
 - o Construction progress at Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor is impressive! The stream work is complete, and 2,000 live stakes (dormant willow branches) were planted last week. Staff spent two days pre-drilling holes in the dry, compacted ground, and volunteers from Ames Master Gardeners and Workiva assisted in planting the stakes. More stakes will be planted in the spring.
 - o Phase 2 design is in progress.
 - o McFarland Clinic will not be using county property for their solar array.
- Army Corps Land – The agreement signed by Story County has not been returned by the Army Corps of Engineers yet. Cox has been in contact with several landowners who have leases on the property.
- Pioneer cemeteries – County staff are exploring options to preserve and maintain remnant prairie in county cemeteries—including four pioneer cemeteries. Rick Sanders added that he believes there is an opportunity for the county to assume some of this maintenance.

15. BOARD REPORTS

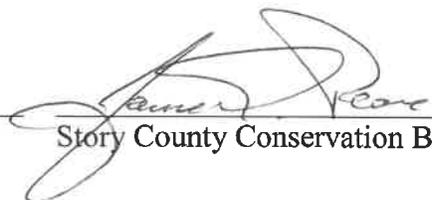
Sanders stated that the deadline for conservation board member applications is December 13. The supervisors will review applications and recommend an appointment very soon.

Pease and Cox met with a representative regarding solar energy possibilities last month, but they have not received a follow-up report yet. Cox said that additional county facilities may be considered for solar energy.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.
Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation Board