

Story County Conservation Board
January 8, 2018
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy Franz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD 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
Jerry Keys

GUESTS

Mike Meetz
Lloyd Crim
Gaylan Crim
Scott Hornstein
Joyce Hornstein
Jeff White
John Pohlman
Jeff White
Cindy Hildebrand

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBER

Franz administered the oath of office to Craig Meyers, who will serve an additional five-year term through 2022.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Franz noted the new agenda format and the procedure to access SCC agendas and packets on the county's website.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz gave background on the Olav Smedal Award and announced Joyce Hornstein as the 2017 recipient. Along with her knowledge and interest and promotion of prairie and trails, Hornstein has served on the Story County Conservation Board and the Story County REAP committee.

Franz and Hornstein gave an update on planning for the 2020 IACCB Conference hosted by Story County Conservation.

6. ELECTION OF 2018 OFFICERS

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, nominating Jim Pease as chair. Tedesco moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot cast for Pease. MCU.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, nominating Meyers as vice-chair. Tedesco moved that all nominations cease and a unanimous ballot cast for Meyers. MCU.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, nominating Laumer as secretary. Tedesco moved that all nominations cease and a unanimous ballot cast for Laumer. MCU.

Franz turned the gavel over to Pease, who chaired the remainder of the meeting.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 board meeting. MCU.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2017 strategic planning meeting, correcting the name "Adelina" to Ackelson. MCU.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017 strategic planning meeting. MCU.

8. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox reported that everything is on track for the first six months of the fiscal year. The Conservation buildings maintenance account will exceed budgeted expenses, while the IRVM budget will expend more on chemicals and seed than anticipated.

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Employment of Tim Schoppe, Seasonal Conservation Aide

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer, to approve employment of Tim Schoppe, seasonal conservation aide, effective January 9, 2018. MCU.

B. Acknowledge Change Order #2 between Story County Conservation and Peterson Contractors, Inc. for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers to acknowledge change order #2 between Story County Conservation and Peterson Contractors, Inc. for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Bid Package #1 for \$37,881.25. MCU.

C. Approve Resolution 2018-01 Endorsing a Grant Application to the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance's Transportation Alternatives Program

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve Resolution 2018-01 endorsing a grant application to the CIRTPA Transportation Alternatives Program for hard surfacing and trail improvements on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail from Slater to Huxley. MCU.

Cox added that cities along the trail support the paving project starting in Slater and that SCC will work with these entities to apply for additional grants and solicit contributions.

D. Approve Deed of Conservation Easement between Loren and Nancy Donaldson and Story County Conservation Board

Cox remarked that development of this easement was approved at the May 8, 2017 board meeting. The Story County Board of Supervisors approved a rezoning of the property contingent on approval of the easement adjacent to the Gladys Leui Preserve.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve a deed of conservation easement between Loren F. and Nancy Carol Donaldson and Story County Conservation Board. MCU.

11. UPDATES

A. General Updates

Director Cox reported on the following:

- HUC 10 Watershed Areas - A sample of watershed area signs designed by Prairie Rivers of Iowa was shown.
- Land Acquisitions
 - o Praeri Rail Trail. The Union Pacific Railroad has approved the plat for property to be purchased in Zearing for the extension of the Praeri Rail Trail. A separate portion of the property will be deeded to the new owner of Zearing Fertilizer in exchange for an easement on the trail.
 - o Jordan Wildlife Area. The DNR has received word that NAWCA grant funds for 2018 have been awarded, and Story County Conservation will receive \$100,000 towards the acquisition of the Jordan Wildlife Area. Cox hopes that SCC will receive the funds this spring for a land transfer in summer 2018.
 - o Carroll Prairie. Fundraising for this acquisition is going well, with about 80% of the purchase price received or pledged.
 - o A possible wetland mitigation site near Askew Bridge is no longer being pursued by the mitigation bank. Cox is pursuing another potential funding source.
- Bargaining Unit Agreements. The county's five bargaining units (including Conservation's unit) were recertified by employees. County officials will be meeting with bargaining teams and the county's negotiator to agree on new contracts to begin in July 2018.
- Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. Phase I construction is ahead of schedule, and planning is in progress for Phase II. Cox remarked that there will be a quick turn around to approve the design, give public notice, and open, recommend, and award the bid for construction. In order to meet deadlines on the project's timeline, the board set meetings for February 19 at 5:30 p.m. (rescheduled from February 12), March 12 at 5:30 p.m., and March 26 at 5:30 p.m.
- SCC Supporters Banquet. A banquet to thank SCC volunteers, Partners members, and donors/supporters of SCC will be held on April 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Prairie Moon Winery. Each board member was asked to provide 3-4 items for a silent auction at the event.
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Cox will be serving on the SCORP committee.

B. IRVM Program Updates

Joe Kooiker, vegetation management biologist, gave his annual report on the Integrated Vegetation Management Program.

- In 2017, 47 landowners planted 1,200 acres of CRP utilizing IRVM equipment. This required a lot of staff time and coordination—especially during the last months of the year.
- Drainage district maintenance included removing large trees (requiring three staff) and burning brush piles.
- Burning was conducted on 18 roadside acres including along R-38.
- The IRVM pole barn was destroyed by a storm in June. Equipment is currently being stored in several locations with a permanent solution for needed storage space to be determined.

- Contract spraying was completed in 3.5 townships, and IRVM staff sprayed roadside brush and cut/chipped vegetation at bridge approaches.
- Letters regarding spray operations were sent to landowners, which started a dialog regarding access lines and buffer strips. Another letter will be sent next year before crops are planted. A separate logging operations letter was mailed to several landowners.
- Numerous ditch cleanouts were planted in the fall, and hydroseeding wrapped up on the new road into Gilbert at the end of December. Kooiker added that IRVM staff received 95 work orders from the Secondary Roads Department in 2017, utilizing 65,000 lbs. of mulch and thousands of pounds of winter wheat.
- Kooiker remarked that with the warmer climate, central Iowa is getting plants usually seen in other states, and weed pressure has changed—which may necessitate increased spraying.
- IRVM files and records were sorted and organized by a volunteer—a welcome occurrence due to the limited hours staff can spend in the office.

Kooiker offered to meet with the board again mid-year and take them on a tour to see some of IRVM's projects.

C. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meeting Updates, and Announcements from the Board

Board members reported on IACCB conference planning, TELC design, and Outdoor Alliance of Story County meetings, the legislators reception, and follow-up with attendees. Pease distributed copies of the new Skunk River Water Trail brochures.

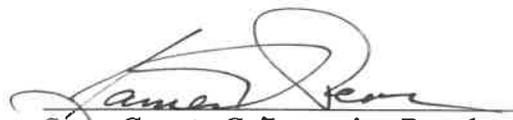
12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.

Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board