

Story County Conservation Board
March 12, 2018
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jim Pease called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present
Craig Meyers – present
Christine Laumer - present
Ted Tedesco – present
Nancy Franz – present
Rick Sanders – present

STAFF

Mike Cox
Jolene Van Waus
Ryan Wiemold
Pat Shehan
Jerry Keys

GUESTS

Marlene Ehresman
Kay Neumann
Bill Clark
Dave Hoffman
Terri Hoefler
Ian Jensen

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Financial Data Coordinator noted a correction to the title on action item 9F.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Pease welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz, to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2018 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox reported that there no substantive changes since last month.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Chair Pease reminded board members of the special meeting on March 26. Pease will be absent; Laumer will need to leave early.

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Second Readings of Revisions to Story County Conservation By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and Safety and Health Management Policy

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve second readings of revisions to SCC By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and Safety and Health Management Policy.

Chair Pease invited comments on the proposed changes regarding use of non-toxic ammunition. He called attention to Blank Park Zoo's non-toxic ammunition display, which Kay Neumann and Linette Riley set up for tonight's meeting.

Kay Neumann, executive director of Saving Our Avian Resources (SOAR), distributed a report showing an influx of lead poisoning in Bald Eagles. Fifty percent of eagles treated by wildlife rehabilitators have been poisoned by lead, with shot and schrapnel

found in eagles' stomachs. She stated that wildlife rehabilitators see only a fraction of injured and dying birds, so the actual number of birds affected is unknown. Neumann stated that hunters who switch to copper slugs have reported that these slugs are more accurate and, therefore, cheaper to use. She hopes to convince hunters to use non-lead ammunition.

Marlene Ehresman, director of the Iowa Wildlife Center, said that Trumpeter Swans and Golden Eagles are also being poisoned. Forty-seven dead swans were reported by the Iowa DNR in the last six months; fishing sinkers were found in some of the swans' stomachs.

Dr. Bill Clark said that about 1/7 of the Trumpeter Swan population from Canada and Alaska winters in Iowa, resulting in potential lead exposure to 10,000 birds. Banding data is needed to determine what proportion of the swans die from lead exposure that could be prevented by hunter and angler habits.

Dave Hoffman, coordinator of the Iowa DNR's Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program, remarked that record levels of lead have been found in swans this year due to low water levels. Very high numbers of shot have been discovered in wildlife areas as well.

Ian Jensen stated that he has only used non-lead shot for hunting. He acknowledged that non-lead shot is slightly more expensive but noted that hunting itself is expensive.

Dr. Clark agreed that expense is a common argument—especially for deer hunting. He believes manufacturers will adjust to this market shift and that it is the right time for Story County to require non-lead ammunition on county areas.

SCC Parks Superintendent Wiemold said that SCC peace officers will need to educate the public about this change and get out during hunting seasons to talk to people. Hunters will need to plan ahead, which may be more difficult with a student population in Ames unfamiliar with Story County rules.

Terri Hoefer, education director with SOAR, commented that people she has spoken with are open to change when they know the consequences of using lead ammunition.

Meyers said he would like to see local retailers notified as soon as possible to give them time to order non-toxic ammunition and inform their customers. Pease added that he intends to consider non-toxic fishing gear for rule changes in 2019.

Pease asked for a vote on Franz's motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Consider Air Rifle and Archery Target Shooting Programs

Environmental Education Coordinator Jerry Keys reported on plans to work with Ames Middle School schools to offer air rifle and archery target shooting programs. Target shooting is not currently allowed in SCC areas. Franz suggested Keys reach out to 4-H to see how their shooting program works and if the two groups could work together.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve air rifle and archery target shooting programs in areas managed by Story County Conservation. MCU.

- C. Consider Grazing Lease Agreement between Story County Conservation and Finch Livestock Exchange
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to approve a grazing lease agreement between Story County Conservation and Finch Livestock Exchange for goats to control invasive species. MCU.
- D. Consider Firewood Contract with Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz, to consider a contract between Story County Conservation and Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC to supply and sell firewood at Story County Conservation campgrounds from April 1 to October 21, 2018 and recommend approval to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.
- E. Consider Easement Agreement with Iowa Regional Utilities Association
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to consider an agreement with Iowa Regional Utilities Association for an easement on the Praeri Rail Trail and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.
- F. Consider Cooperative Agreement with Prairie Rivers of Iowa
Cox reported that Prairie Rivers has completed design of the signs. Watershed signs will be placed on county blacktop roads at HUC 10 watershed boundaries, and creek signs will be placed at named creeks along the same watersheds.
- MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to consider a cooperative agreement between Prairie Rivers of Iowa and Story County Conservation for coordination and installation of watershed and creek signs for \$22,031 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.
- G. Consider Merit Adjustment for Jerry keys
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a merit adjustment of \$2,324.87 biweekly for Jerry Keys, environmental education coordinator, effective April 1 2018.

10. UPDATES

A. Field Operations Report

Parks Superintendent Ryan Wiemold gave an update on field operations over the last year, reporting on the following categories:

Staff – Improved communication and efficiency have occurred with regular meetings, the special projects ranger position was filled, and the natural resource program was reviewed. Staff is considering plans to balance the workload between units and identifying possible property acquisitions.

Current/past projects – FY17-FY18 projects have included Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Hickory Grove Lake restoration (Phase I design work), and Hickory Grove Park campground building.

Future Projects – Implementation of limited campground reservations this spring, Hickory Grove Lake restoration (Phases 1-3 construction), Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor (Phases 2 and 3), HOINT paving, Hickory Grove Beach House replacement, and Dakins Lake cabin.

Law Enforcement Program – Handguns were replaced, staff received training on new laptops and interagency operations and attended new member training with CCPOA, and plan on updating the SCC Law Enforcement Policy in the coming year.

Trails Advisory Committee – Six TEAM Days were held last year, and the committee hopes to recruit new members at a special program in June. The committee has also discussed new trails, paving existing trails, and hosting a trail run at McFarland Park.

Other – Wiemold submitted or assisted with several grant proposals, attended a leadership training series, and participated in Des Moines MPO Roundtable meetings and the High Trestle Trail committee.

B. General Updates

Director Cox reported on the following:

- Cox, Franz, and Park Ranger Simcox will attend the National Association of Interpretation Conference in Austin, Minnesota, to receive an environmental education support award.
- Cox has reached out to Cy Biz Lab to look at the economic impact of three SCC parks—Dakins Lake, Hickory Grove, and Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. Cox will present a funding request at the next board meeting. Franz said she would like to see social impact data collected as well.
- Cox will be out of the office March 14-21.

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

- Franz reminded board members that silent auction items are needed at the supporter appreciation dinner to benefit the fundraising effort to acquire Carroll Prairie. She asked that each member contact her, Cox, or Kim Abels from Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau with the list they have gathered.
- Tedesco reported that the status of the trail at TELC will be followed up with the City of Ames and that Ames Rotary is looking forward to helping plant trees this spring. Wiemold confirmed that volunteers will help plant live stakes on April 7 and trees and shrubs on April 18 or April 20 (rain date).
- Meyers attended the Outdoor Alliance of Story County's annual meeting.
- Laumer reported that the Partners Advisory Committee met recently to discuss plans for the spring festival. She added that suggestions for bands for the fall festival are welcome.
- Sanders stated that the FY19 budget hearing will be held tomorrow.
- Pease spoke at the Floyd County Conservation Foundation banquet last weekend.

D. Other

Pease thanked visitors for attending the meeting and sharing their comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation Board