

Story County Conservation Board
April 9, 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

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Pease noted an updated budget amendment spreadsheet.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guest Mike Meetz had no comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 board meeting. MCU.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2018 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

Pease questioned the claim paid to Story County Extension. Van Waus and Cox explained that SCC co-sponsored a program with the extension office during spring break.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to approve claims and receipts with clarification on the Story County Extension expense. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox stated there were no concerns at this time.

8. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Pease reminded board members of the Conservation staff recognition breakfast by the board of supervisors on April 11 and the SCC Supporters Recognition dinner on April 12.

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Collective Bargaining Agreement

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve collective bargaining agreement between Story County, Iowa Conservation Board and Public, Professional, & Maintenance Employees Local 2003 (Conservation Unit) for 2018-2021. MCU.

Sanders added that the agreement includes a 2% raise for each of the next three years. This same agreement was reached by all five unions representing Story County employees.

B. Consider Employment of Seasonal Staff

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to approve employment of Story County Conservation 2018 Seasonal Staff. MCU.

C. Consider Lease Agreement with John and Jan Lekwa

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve a lease agreement with John and Jan Lekwa for property on the Skunk River Greenbelt in consideration of the sum of annual taxes on the leased property. MCU.

D. Consider Trees for Kids Grant Agreement

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to consider a Trees for Kids Grant agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for \$3,938.75. MCU.

E. Consider Addendum to Story County Conservation Safety and Health Management Policy

Cox explained that a plan for operation of the new shower house/storm shelter at Breezy Bay Campground has been developed. The plan is based on Woodbury County's procedure, with modifications suggested by Story County Emergency Management.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the addition of Appendix L: Hickory Grove Shower House/Storm Shelter Operations and Maintenance Plan and Severe Weather Warning Procedure to the SCC Safety and Health Management Policy. MCU.

F. Consider Land Purchase in Union Township

Cox reported that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is considering the purchase of approximately 436 acres north of Cambridge along the Skunk River. INHF has asked for SCCB's support/intention regarding the acquisition of this property. In discussion, board members noted that the purchase aligns with SCCB's Strategic Plan and Story County's C2C Plan.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to approve the director to express SCC's interest regarding this land acquisition in Union Township. MCU.

G. Consider Contract with Boulder Contracting, LLC

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that they approve a contract with Boulder Contracting, LLC for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, Phase 2 construction, for \$1,068,788. MCU.

H. Consider Fish Habitat Stamp Agreement

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve Fish Habitat Stamp Agreement #18-01F - Hickory Grove Lake Restoration with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for \$46,580 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

I. Consider Project Sponsor Acknowledgement with ISU CyBIZ Lab for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor

Cox stated that this is the first economic impact analysis conducted specifically for Story County Conservation and will serve as a tool for applying for grant funding. In addition to supporting another partnership with ISU, the process will be a program topic at the IACCB 2020 Fall Conference in Story County. TELC project funds will be utilized.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve a Project Sponsor Acknowledgement between Iowa State University CyBIZ Lab and Story County Conservation Board for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor economic impact analysis for \$5,000 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

J. Consider Project Sponsor Acknowledgement with ISU CyBIZ Lab for Dakins Lake and Hickory Grove Park

Two economic impact analyses will be completed in August 2018 for two SCC parks-- Dakins Lake and Hickory Grove. Cox stated that \$5,000 from the general fund and \$5,000 from the Conservation trust fund would be utilized for these two analyses.

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve a Project Sponsor Acknowledgement between Iowa State University CyBIZ Lab and Story County Conservation Board for Dakins Lake economic impact analysis and Hickory Grove Park economic impact analysis for \$10,000 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

K. Consider Project Sponsor Agreement with Iowa State University Institute for Design Research and Outreach

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer, to approve a project sponsor agreement between Iowa State University Institute for Design Research and Outreach and Story County Conservation Board for design of wayfinding signage at McFarland Park for \$200 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

L. Consider FY18 Budget Amendment Requests

Director Cox reviewed a spreadsheet showing proposed amendments in the Conservation and IRVM budgets. Several capital projects will not be completed in FY18, and both expenses and revenue will be requested to be carried forward to FY19.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve proposed FY18 budget amendments to submit to the Story County Auditor. MCU.

10. UPDATES

A. General Updates

Director Cox reported on the following:

- Outreach Coordinator Erica Place's update tonight is postponed due to illness. Cox added that Place does an amazing job with social media usage and getting SCC's message out on several different platforms. She will join Cox at his next BOS meeting update to share that information.
- Watershed and creek identification signs have been ordered.

- Franz was thanked for a fantastic job in collecting silent auction items for the supporters' dinner.
- Cox, Franz, and Park Ranger Simcox traveled to Austin, Minnesota on April 6 to accept an award from the National Association of Interpreters. SCC naturalists nominated other SCC for this award.
- Online camping reservations began on April 2. The response from the public has been favorable. Cox acknowledged Administrative Assistant Johannes for all her hard work in setting up the registration process on the mycountyparks.com website.
- Cox met with staff from The Nature Conservancy regarding management of the Ames High School Prairie. Discussions will continue.
- Forty acres of land south of Ames may be available for sale. Cox has talked to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation about a potential purchase. Board members agreed that it is wise to pursue this possible acquisition.

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

- Meyers and Mike Meetz judged SCC Photo Contest entries last week. They said the number of entries were down, but photos were good quality. Meyers added that more youth entries are needed.
- Tedesco said he was getting inquiries about donations for cash and trees for TELC. Cox said those inquiries can be directed to him.
- Franz volunteered for SCC's geocache egg hunt and said participants had an enjoyable time despite the wind and cold temperatures. She will lead an Earth Day hike at McFarland Park. The Trails Committee met last month for tool time; the April TEAM day is at Robison Wildlife Acres, and a "Trailgate" party will be held on June 1 to celebrate National Trails Day. Trails committee members were excited for the arrival of a new, enclosed trailer.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.
Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board