

Story County Conservation Board
January 7, 2019
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 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
Erica Place
Joe Kooiker
Tyler Kelley

GUESTS

Al Ravenscroft
Linda Zaletel
Mike Meetz
Steve Lekwa
Greg Vitale
Paul Readhead

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBER

Pease administered the oath of office to Ted Tedesco, who will serve through 2023.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

The volunteer and IRVM updates were moved ahead of the action items.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz commented on volunteerism and its benefits to Story County Conservation, acknowledging an individual who has worked on trails, collected seed, hosted at the conservation center, set up for O.W.L.S. programs, participated in the Adopt A Park program, and assisted with environmental education programs—specifically nature camps. Meetz then presented a surprised Al Ravenscroft with the 2018 Olav Smedal Award.

Ravenscroft summarized his numerous volunteer experiences, adding how much he enjoyed working with Naturalist Linda Zaletel through the years. Board members congratulated Mr. Ravenscroft as an exceptional volunteer and as a worthy recipient of this award.

Pease recognized Financial Data Manager Van Waus’s upcoming retirement and presented her with a gift from the board and staff.

6. ELECT 2019 OFFICERS

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, nominating Meyers as chair. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Meyers. MCU.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, nominating Laumer as vicechair. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Laumer. MCU.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, nominating Franz as secretary. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Franz. MCU.

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

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2018
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

8. IRVM PROGRAM UPDATE

Vegetation Management Biologist Joe Kooiker and Vegetation Management Specialist Tyler Kelley updated the board on IRVM operations the past year.

Kooiker gave statistics on planting, noxious weed control, weed complaints, prescribed fire, and seed harvesting. A record amount of rain this fall affected the seed harvest, and staff learned how to operate the John Deere combine. IRVM participated in a project northwest of Nevada where they re-seeded a gully and installed erosion mat. Kooiker noted that the project help demonstrate how agriculture and the environment can work together. Staff is always looking for opportunities to promote IRVM.

An addition to IRVM's shop in rural Nevada is requested in the FY20 budget. This will help greatly in providing office and storage space at the same location. A new sprayer is also requested in FY20. A 500-gallon tank will mean less travel, and 12 different nozzles will make spraying more efficient. Staff will be required to have a Class D chauffeur's license for this equipment; grant money will be requested.

Kelley reported on work in drainage districts. Letters are sent to landowners in advance of the work planned giving a timeline and asking permission for/adding access. There are 63 miles of open ditch in the county; Kelley hopes to spray 12.5 miles next summer. Kelley predicts that heavy logging will be completed in the next 2-5 years, followed by spraying in subsequent years. Kelley showed a photo of staff removing trees one by one from a ditch as well as an "after" photo of a ditch with buffer strips on each side and a few old trees remaining.

The board thanked Kooiker and Kelley for their report. Supervisor Sanders added that these maintenance costs are billed back to landowners in the drainage district. The board of supervisors sees value in the program, realizing that staff is cleaning up trees and brush that have been growing for 50 years.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

There were no questions. Van Waus noted updated formats to the reports.

11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
Meyers noted several upcoming programs, Van Waus' retirement party on January 22, and the next board meeting on February

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Resolution #2019-01 Endorsing a CIRTPA Grant Application for a Paving Project on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail from Huxley to Cambridge
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

- B. Approve Contract with Jensen Excavating, Inc. for Tree/Brush Removal in Hardin-Story #3 Drainage District for \$4,820.
MOTION by Tedesco , SECOND by Pease. MCU.
- C. Approve Contract with Jensen Excavating, Inc. to Demolish Building at IRVM for \$950.
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.
- D. Consider Supplemental Agreement with Snyder & Associates, Inc. Pertaining to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Project from Slater to Huxley not to Exceed \$9,100 and Recommend Approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- E. Consider Amendment 4 to Agreement between Shive-Hattery, Inc. and Story County, Iowa for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Bid Package 2 for \$23,000 and Recommend Approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. MCU.
- F. Consider Agreement with Avec Design, Inc. for Design of Sustainable Energy Cabin at Dakins Lake for \$25,600 and Recommend Approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

13. UPDATES

- A. General Updates – Director Michael Cox
 - Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. Bid letting for the first phase of paving is scheduled for March 19. Mayors from communities along the trail were invited to a January 28 meeting at 2:30 at the conservation center to review the master plan prepared by Snyder and Associates, Inc. The plan should be ready for approval at the February SCC board meeting.
 - Praeri Rail Trail. Bid letting for the PRT extension project is scheduled for January 16.
 - Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. The grand opening for the park is scheduled for June 14 (time to be announced). Franz and Pease offered to help with planning the event. Cox met with Shive-Hattery and Story County Engineer Moon to coordinate roads with the trail in Phase 3. Cox has also had several meetings with the university as well. Approval by the board of regents is anticipated for June 4.
 - FY20 budget. The worksession with the board of supervisors is on January 14 at 1:30. Updated spreadsheets will be emailed to board members later his week.
 - Army Corps of Engineers Land. The Corps has sent letters to all lease holders informing them to vacate the property. Cox and Assistant County Attorney Anderson hope to schedule a meeting with Corps representatives and hold an informational meeting with all lease holders.
 - Hannum’s Mill. Cox has developed a list of firms to complete concept work for mitigation of the dam. Landowners will be contacted.
- B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meeting Updates, and Announcements from the Board
 - Meyers invited Greg Vitale to give updates on the Outdoor Alliance of Story County.
 - Tedesco has arranged to meet with a landowner near McFarland Park about legacy planning. Tedesco and Cox met with Marlys Barker for a newspaper article about TELC.

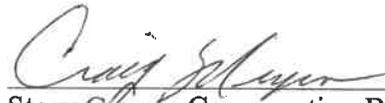
- Franz reported on several hikes at county areas. She and Outreach Coordinator Place have been learning/experimenting with a new volunteer software management program.
- Pease has been researching ways that SCC can improve watersheds, including landowner education and assistance.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board