

Story County Conservation Board
May 13, 2019
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers - present

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Jim Pease – present via phone

Rick Sanders – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Amy Yoakum

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

Greg Vitale

Rob Davis

Mario Fenu

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS- The agenda was modified by moving Action Item I, Hannums Mill contract with Houston Engineering to the top of the Action Items.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Greg Vitale with the Outdoor Alliance of Story County presented an update on organization accomplishments. They have cosponsored and worked on several projects and made donations for land acquisitions for new parks. They have about 50 members and raise about \$5,000 annually.

Mike Meetz thanked the staff and board members for participating in the Science Bytes program and also helping with Olli classes.

5. STAFF REPORT- Amy Yoakum’s annual report to the Board included the re-branding of Invasive Species Outreach to Weed Wrangle. This program was started by the Garden Clubs of America – Nashville Chapter and is becoming a nationwide campaign for hands-on invasive species removal. Her vision is to have SCC, City of Ames and other municipalities doing Weed Wrangle events at the same time. She also reported on the research permits and getting copies of the research, natural resource projects, cemetery prairie remnant protection, her duties as the Safety Committee Chair, county watershed assessment/water quality monitoring, seed harvest, sensitive areas inventory, outreach, ROAR, the ISU Work Study program and the Monarch Consortium and Monarch Joint Venture Project. SCC is the only county conservation that is active in this program.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2019. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz to approve minutes as presented. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. Cox provided clarification that WHKS is the engineering firm that is working on the Hickory Grove beach house project. MCU.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Harrelson provided clarification on the revenue page camping income highlighted in yellow. The My County Parks reservation income were not separated between Hickory Grove and Dakins.

9. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Meyers noted several upcoming events including Trail Enhancement and Maintenance day on May 18, prairie walk on May 23, the next board meeting on June 10 and the dedication of TELC on June 28. There will be several private tours of TELC prior to June 28. Laumer indicated that she will not be able to attend the July 8 board meeting.

10. ACTION ITEMS:

- I. Consideration Of Contract With Houston Engineering Inc. For \$52,900 For The Exploratory Phase Of The Removal Or Modification Of Hannums Mill Low-Head Dam. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. Cox gave a brief background on the lowhead dam and the capabilities of Houston Engineering to develop conceptual mitigation plans. Mario Fenu and Rob Davis with Houston Engineering were present to discuss their past work history with other dam restoration and modification projects and how they foresee the process will take place throughout their contract. Cox indicated that all of the adjoining landowners and the Ames Historical Society are supportive of this work. Franz questioned if there was anything that the board should be doing during this process. Mr. Davis suggested that the board encourage the public to be engaged in the process and to attend the public input meeting. MCU.
- A. Action Forms
 - 1)summer new hire, effective 5/14/19, Kaleb Angell, Conservation Aide @ \$11.25/hr;
 - 2)correction, effective 5/12/19, Allison Stegmann and Tanner Christiansen, both @ \$11.75;
 - 3)pay adjustment effective 5/26/19, Ryan Wiemold @\$2,624.35/bw and effective 6/9/19, Joseph Kooiker @ \$2,208.09/bw MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- B. Acknowledgement Of Purchase Of Toyota RAV4 From Wilson Toyota. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Contract Between Gene Ridgeway And Story County Conservation Board For Campground Attendant Duties At Hickory Grove Park From May 20 To September 8, 2019. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- D. Approval Of Story County Conservation Law Enforcement Policy. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. Franz noted that minor corrections needed to be made on pg. 7, 4, Rifles shall routinely “be” carried...; pg. 25, c, Uniformed Personnel, i, functions should be singular; pg. 35, F, on line 5 of the paragraph, lapses of judgement “or” acts of carelessness... Cox noted that all of the corrections have been made. Laumer questioned how our conservation officers get their continuing education. Cox indicated that the County Conservation Peace Officers Association offers all of the training that is required

to maintain accreditation. We also have the option to go through additional qualification courses and other trainings with the sheriff's office. MCU.

- E. Consideration Of Request To Engage The Trust For Public Lands For Technical Assistance In Identifying Potential Sustainable Funding Measures For Land And Water Conservation. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. Cox reminded the board that we are asking for advice on local funding possibilities, not specifically bonding possibilities. The next step is that we send them a letter of request for their services. We would like to have this letter be from both the Story County Conservation Board and the Story County Board of Supervisors. If approved, we will receive a proposal for conducting a local funding feasibility study and there will be a cost estimated to be \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 that we will have to find outside funding for. There will not be any tax payer funds used for this. Pease advised that this is just a research phase and does not commit us to move forward with any bonding request. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of 2019 LRTF Grant Application Submissions. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Franz. MCU.
- G. Approval For Purchase Of Patrol Rifles, Vehicle Mounts And Ammunition For Story County Conservation For \$14,755.17. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. Laumer questioned if these were new or replacements. Cox clarified that this is a new purchase that was previously approved for the FY20 budget and the Board of Supervisors moved it from FY20 into FY19. MCU.
- H. Consideration Of Purchase Agreement With Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation For The Purchase Of The Sleepy Hollow Addition. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. Franz noted that one of the donors is listed as the Blue Stream Audubon Society, it should be the Big Bluestem Audubon Society. MCU.
- J. Approval Of Hickory Grove Beach House Plans, Specifications And Form Of Contract. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. Cox noted that since this is a bid item, the Board of Supervisors will consider this on May 21 and will be released for bids after their approval. MCU.
- K. Consideration Of Contract With Applied Art And Technology For The Creation Of An Interactive Touch Screen For Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Pease gave more details about the touch screens. These are specifically for TELC, but he foresees that we can potentially use the technology at several of our county parks in the future. The touch screens will be located inside the core facility near the stairs. Meyers questioned how the content can be updated. Pease and Cox confirmed that we will have to contract for maintenance in the future. MCU.

10. UPDATES:

- A. General Updates: Director Cox stated that the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail as been named a part of the nationwide Great American Rail Trail. Monday, May 20th is our annual seasonal

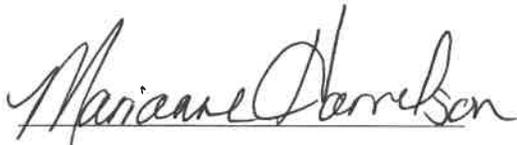
staff orientation and all staff safety training day. The Board of Supervisors is recognizing Conservation with breakfast that day and board members are invited to attend. The Hickory Grove project is ahead of schedule. Depending on the weather, the project should be finished in October. Cox stated we had many qualified applicants for the Trails and Natural Resources Technician position. The TELC grand opening on June 28 will start at approximately 3:30PM with a meet and greet social, then remarks from the Conservation Board, the Research Park, the Board of Supervisors and Iowa State University. Board member Tedesco will be recognized and will speak. The ribbon cutting will take place at approximately 5:00 P.M. Activities will take place following the ribbon cutting. McFarland Clinic staff will be there to kick off the Trails RX program and there will be tours and many other activities throughout the park. We are looking for some sponsors to defray the costs of the event.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Laumer updated the Board on the Partners meeting. We are on track of meeting our goal Partners membership goal for this year. The National Get Outdoors Day is June 8th and Conservation is holding events in it's parks that day. Laumer attended the first TEAM day for the year and also the Geocache Egg Hunt. Meyers stated he will not be able to attend the June 10th Board meeting. Laumer will not be at the July meeting and Franz will not be at the August meeting. Franz attended the Trailgate party. Franz noted that the attendance was high and that she is already discussing plans for next year's event. There is a 2020 conference meeting coming up and everything seems to be on task. She represented the Conservation Board at the Ames Eco Fair. The majority of questions that people had were about TELC, HOINT and the Hickory Grove project. Franz notified members of the April Trails Advisory Committee meeting, gave an Eagle Scout project update and announced that we have two more team days –this Saturday at McFarland, and June 15th at North Soper's Mill. Tedesco gave an update on work at TELC. Pease updated the Board on TELC interpretive signage. Pease stated that on June 1st at Ada Haden beginning at 12:30 PM the Friends of Ada Hayden are unveiling new interpretive signage. Meyers stated that he, Franz and Director Cox attended a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission to review the proposed storm water and erosion control ordinances. Franz facilitated the meeting and she received good information and feedback.

C. Other – none.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41PM.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board