

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, April 11, 2011
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

1. Chair T. Tedesco called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Ted Tedesco – present

Wayne Clinton – present

Jim Pease – present

Erin Wilgenbusch – present

Joyce Hornstein – present

STAFF

Steve Lekwa

Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

Mike & Linda Meetz

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mike and Linda Meetz introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

The chair noted a thank you from Mike Cox, two critique sheets from candidate presentations, minutes of the April 7 meeting, the summer issue of *Prairie Horizons*, and an invitation to the opening of the High Trestle Trail.

5. DISCUSS DIRECTOR CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS AND APPROVE OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

Board members discussed the overall interview process, evaluations from staff and the public, and their individual assessments of each candidate.

MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to proceed to make an offer of employment to Michael Cox to be the next director of Story County Conservation.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Wilgenbusch, Pease, Clinton, Tedesco. Nays: Hornstein.

Motion carried.

The board reviewed the county's compensation schedule, including salary and benefits. Clinton remarked that Story County tries to bring people in at the mid-point level of the pay grade with the possibility of a slight adjustment if the new employee meets certain benchmarks over a specified number of months. Experience and the number of people supervised are also factors. The mid-point salary of Grade 14, FICA, IPERS, and flex benefits were combined to consider a cash total. Use of a county vehicle, cell phone option, and moving expense up to \$3,000 were other benefits considered.

MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to offer the mid-point salary range of Grade 14 (negotiable up to \$73,000) and benefits. MCU.

MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by W. Clinton, to call a 15-minute recess to phone Michael Cox. MCU. The meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:10 p.m. Tedesco announced that Cox tentatively accepted the job at the salary and benefits offered plus moving reimbursement of up to \$3,000. Cox will call Tedesco tomorrow to confirm.

Tentative start date will be mid-May with the understanding that Cox will need to be absent for two weeks in July to fulfill a commitment in Alaska.

Tedesco thanked the board members, especially the selection committee, for all their work with the hiring process. Hornstein thanked Tedesco for his leadership.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by W. Clinton, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve the minutes of the March 14, March 23, April 4, and April 7, 2011 board meetings. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve all claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Lekwa announced that a distribution check for \$47,000 was received from the Gladys Leui Trust, bringing total 2010 income to \$102,359. Staff is still planning to complete these projects before the end of the fiscal year: new windows at the conservation center, fencing on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, and signs for the Jennett Heritage Area.

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The chair noted that the next board meeting is May 9 at 7:00 p.m. J. Hornstein requested that board members receive information on the May 14 IACCB District I meeting being hosted by Story County Conservation.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Lekwa reported on a meeting he attended with Kevin Griggs, county engineer Darren Moon, and Carol Williams regarding wetland mitigation projects near Askew Bridge and Jennett Heritage Area (JHA). Griggs has prepared a concept proposal for a site downstream from the new wetlands the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation created at JHA. The site is north of the parking lot and would require a built-up causeway between the existing wetland and the proposed mitigation site. Lekwa added that Moon is interested in this project and will be moving ahead with options.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

M. Meetz thanked the board for allowing the public to participate in the director selection process and announced that he has been helping judge the *Partners* photo contest.

12. APPROVE FISH HABITAT AGREEMENT WITH THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE JETTIES AT HICKORY GROVE PARK

MOTION by W. Clinton, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve fish habitat agreement with the Iowa DNR. MCU.

13. APPROVE SECOND READING OF RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES REGARDING PRIMITIVE CAMPING AT SAFLY TRACT

MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve second reading of rules and regulations changes. MCU.

14. APPROVE FIRST READING OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION MOVING EXPENSE POLICY
MOTION by W. Clinton, SECOND by J. Pease, to approve first reading of proposed Story County Conservation moving expense policy. MCU.
15. APPROVE CONTRACT FOR 2011 CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT
MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by W. Clinton, to approve campground attendant contract with Glenn Harris. MCU.
16. APPROVE BID FROM JENSEN EXCAVATING FOR FENCE CLEARING ON HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL
MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve the bid from Jensen Excavating for work on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. MCU.
17. REVIEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION AND THE HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL STEERING COMMITTEE
Chair Tedesco alerted board members that this will be an action item on the May agenda.

18. OTHER

Lekwa reported that another water leak in the water system at Hickory Grove has occurred. In working with a local plumber, it was determined that incorrect parts were installed by The Underground Company. Lekwa has photo documentation and has prepared a letter for review by the county attorney before sending it to the company. The Underground Company has been back three times to repair similar leaks without mentioning that the wrong fittings were installed. Lekwa added that lots of water has been lost as well as utility costs and staff time. Tedesco suggested documenting complete operations loss for possible insurance claim.

Work on the bridge near Peterson Park has begun, and 180th Street will be closed for the duration of the project. East Peterson will be inaccessible from the road. The new bridge will be downstream, straighter, and with no overhead structure. Lekwa said the old bridge will be the contractor's property to scrap.

Hornstein inquired if the board will be making a list of goals and expectations for the new director. Board members agreed that this would be a good idea. Lekwa added that he would like a plan for the new director's orientation as well. The board will have a work session on May 6 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting to work on these goals. Tedesco asked Lekwa to submit his ideas and requested that board members send their thoughts and suggestions to him too.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by J. Pease, to adjourn the meeting. MCU. Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board

