

Story County Conservation Board

May 11, 2020

Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa via conference call

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: Due To Recommendations To Limit Gatherings To No More Than Ten (10) People In Order To Help Slow The Spread Of The COVID-19 Virus, Public Access To The Meeting Will Be Provided Via Conference Call To Listen To The Meeting.

Members of the public who would like to call in:

Dial 515-603-3144 1 Enter 895791# when prompted for the access code

2. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Pease - present

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Craig Meyers - present

Ted Tedesco – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

GUESTS

Amelia Schoeneman

John Gade

Kurt Friedrich

Erica Place

4. STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE SECTION 21.8.1

5. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. STAFF REPORT – None.

8. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD WITH REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION – Campground Management Protocols are at Level 1. Director Cox explained that this document was originally prepared by Iowa's County Conservation System (ICCS) and it was done as a collaborative effort between several County's conservation boards and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We took this document and made some minor revisions so it fits our County's needs better. It breaks the opening protocols of our campgrounds into three levels. Level 1 has the highest restrictions, Level 2 is more relaxed restrictions and Level 3 is full camping as normal. Meyers questioned how we would handle a situation that would require us to use the storm shelter at Hickory Grove. Director Cox will add a statement in regards to the storm shelter and wearing face coverings. Franz noted that we should change the cleaning procedures of the pop machines to include the whole front surface of the machine. Director Cox will make that change. MOTION to approve the document and open the campgrounds at level 1 on May 22, 2020 with the revisions by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU by a roll call vote.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 13, 2020. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. Pease noted one typographical correction. MCU.

10. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. Franz questioned a claim for a fence. Director Cox indicated it was for a fence along the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. Pease asked about the claim that was voided to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for the Wicks land purchase and another claim paid later for a different amount. Harrelson explained that the claim was originally submitted for the full purchase price and before the check was mailed, we received a closing statement with the actual balance due to them after fees, taxes, other costs and donations. Meyers wanted to know what the SCCB supplies that were purchased at Menards. Harrelson indicated that this is how the Auditor's Office enters the claims into the system. They are not able to list the specific items purchased. The claims are submitted with the detailed information. MCU.

11. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox noted there is a report showing the FY20 budget amendments that we submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval. These amendments reflect changes made operationally (some due to COVID-19), how capital projects are moving forward and some changes that were missed on the last amendment. Some of the amendments will be moved to the FY21 budget.

12. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

All programs and events have been cancelled until the end of June. Our next board meeting is scheduled for June 8th.

13. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Action Forms

1. Summer new hires, effective 5/18/20, Park Ranger Aide, Jacob Smith @ \$11.50/hr; Conservation Aide, Nicholas Hadaway (rehire) @ \$11.75/hr, Emily Lemons (rehire) @ \$11.75/hr, Kaleb Angell (rehire) @ \$11.75/hr, Devin See (rehire) @ \$11.75/hr, Josimar Palacio Garcia @ \$11.50/hr., Sean Vellinga @ \$11.50/hr., Kevin Schlotfeldt @ \$11.50/hr., and Richard Mortenson @ \$11.50/hr.

2. Summer new hires, effective 6/29/20, Seasonal Naturalist, Madeline Schill @ \$11.50/hr. and Bailey Dohlman @ \$11.50/hr. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. Franz questioned how these hires fit in with the hiring freeze that the county implemented. Cox indicated that all of these offers were made and accepted prior to the hiring freeze. MCU.

3. New hire, effective 5/18/210, Trails/Natural Resources Technician, Derek Seward @ \$18.50/hr. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

4. Pay adjustment effective 5/24/20, Ryan Weimold @ \$2,757.14/bw, Michael Cox @ \$3,764.19/bw and Joseph Kooiker @ \$2,307.83. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Wellness Policy. This policy was adopted by the Board of Supervisors and we need to adopt it as part of our policies. No changes were made other than applying Story County Conservation in place of Story County. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

- C. Consideration Of Face Covering Policy In Response To The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. This policy was adopted by the Board of Supervisors and we need to adopt it as part of our policies. No changes were made other than applying Story County Conservation in place of Story County. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- D. Consideration Naming The Pergola At McFarland Park The George And Mary Engstrom Pergola. Director Cox explained that this is at the request of the Ames Town and Country Kiwanis Club put in the park for us and they are bringing this request forward. George and Mary have supported conservation in a number of ways. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Cost Share With The City Of Huxley For Improvements To The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail. Director Cox noted that the Huxley City Administrator, Rita Conner, made a requested at our last meeting, for us to consider a cost share for this project. Pease wanted to know what other commitments that we have coming from the Trust Fund. Cox explained that there is a specific line item of money donated for the Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail, which is sufficient to fund the request. A 50% cost share would be \$52,071.75. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Professional Services Agreement With Wapsi Valley Archeology For Completion Of A Phase 1 Cultural Study Of Property To Be Acquired By Story County For \$31,469.76. Director Cox explained that the Army Corps of Engineers started Phase 1, but it was suspended because they ran out of funding and then work was suspended for the winter. This contract will continue the work and finish the Phase 1 Cultural Study in order for the permit to be issued. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of Contract With Brush And Weed Control Specialists For Brush Control. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- H. Consideration Of Grant Of Easements To The City Of Huxley For Improvements To The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail, Trail Ridge Park, And The Realignment Of 560th Ave. Franz noted that there are no amounts entered in any of the blanks. We should enter in a "0" or "N/A". MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- I. Consideration Of Grant Of Easement To The City Of Cambridge For Access Across County Property For Their Water Treatment Plant. A copy of this easement was received prior to the meeting and was distributed to the board members via email. There will not be any impact to any of our facilities. Since we just received the easement document prior to the meeting, the county attorney requested that we approve the easement pending the approval from the attorney's office. MOTION to approve after county attorney approval by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- J. Consideration Of Contract With Snyder & Associates For Construction Services In For Phase 2 Of The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Between Huxley And The South Skunk River Bridge. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

- K. Consideration Of Construction Contract Award For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Project Between Huxley And The South Skunk River Bridge. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- L. Consideration Of Acceptance Of The Hannum's Mill Lowhead Dam Mitigation Phase 1 Exploratory Report. Pease noted that this is just an acceptance of the report in order for us to continue with the next steps to Phase 2. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- M. Consider Approval Of Two 2020 LRTF Grant Application Submission. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- N. Consideration Of Prairie Valley Subdivision Management Agreement, Preliminary Plat And Covenants. Director Cox indicated that we have Kurt Friedrich, John Gade with Fox Engineering and Amelia with Planning & Development available on the conference call. All parties involved have worked very hard to develop this new collaboration to preserve and protect the prairie areas with a unique property development. A portion of the property will be donated to Story County in order to protect environmentally sensitive areas and provide habitat and water quality. All of the documents have been approved by the Story County Attorney, Environmental Health, and Planning & Development. Planning & Development approved the rezoning with conditions for the project at their last meeting. The Board of Supervisors will have their first consideration on May 19th. Tedesco hopes that this will be the start of many projects of this nature which takes into consideration the conservation planning, building and maintaining. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU by roll call vote.

14. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox gave an update on the Hickory Grove Lake project. Most of the calls that we received regarding draw down have all been positive. Discussions are still taking place on a plan to eradicate carp. He reached back out to the City of Colo regarding the sewer and he needs to call them back with answers to some questions they had. The city has started a conversation with their engineer and they would like for us to pay for that engineering time. There is concern about the dump station because of the higher contaminant concentration due to the chemicals that people put in their RV's. Phase 3 of the TELC project is on schedule. Residents in the area are excited about the project and have some interest in further developments to the area.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz has been hiking all of our trails – she only has two left. She has been providing trail report to staff. They are getting heavy use. She continues to work with the ICCS on the 2020 conference and trying to make decisions on what might happen with the pandemic. She is also participating in a pandemic class to learn about all the aspects of the pandemic. This week they discussed outdoor recreation and COVID-19 and what the impacts were for altered use patterns on public land. She is continually sharing information with Mike as she learns more and gets more information. Laumer has been out to TELC a lot lately and the park is looking great. Meyers stated that Greg Vitale contacted him about purchasing land and donating it to conservation. Greg would also like OASCO and Story County Conservation to become much more closely aligned. Tedesco noted that the usage at TELC has increased and people are coming from distances to visit the park. He also asked about putting signs up at

the second round about to direct people to the park. Pease is working with a group about bird conservation areas and has been doing a lot of bird watching. He is continuing to do programs on Iowa Public Radio. Franz wanted to know if we could add the programs that Pease is doing to our social media.

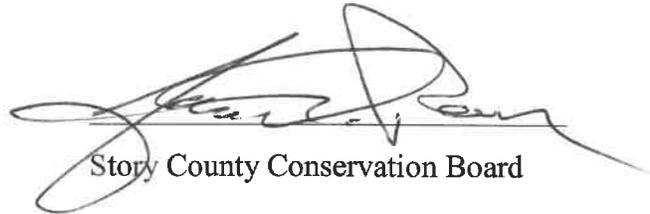
C. Other – None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board