

Story County Conservation Board  
Friday, June 29, 2012  
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

39966080. Chair Pease called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease - present  
Ted Tedesco - present  
Joyce Hornstein - present  
Sandy Opstvedt - present  
Allen Weber - present  
Wayne Clinton - absent

STAFF

Mike Cox  
Jolene Van Waus  
Carol Williams

GUESTS

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS – There were no guests.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Pease reviewed the meeting agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Opstvedt, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve claims and receipts submitted. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Camping and waterfront revenue totals through June 24 were noted by Financial Data Coordinator Van Waus.

39966081. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Pease reminded board members that the July 9 meeting is cancelled. Upcoming events include Partners advisory committee meeting, Naturalist Lunch Box programs, evening prairie walks, adult/child canoe trip, and a nature camp backpacking trip. The IACCB fall conference is Sept. 13-15; Hornstein and Weber are planning to attend.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Director Cox reported that the board of supervisors will be considering the Conservation board's resolution re: hog confinements and whether they will sign on. Cox met with the Mens family; they are planning to move forward with another contractor at a location close to their house. They feel this location would be more palatable to the public and be a better option for the park. They said they are also willing to look at plantings, building alignment, and ventilation to mitigate the confinement's impact.

39966082. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11. APPROVE RESOLUTION ENDORSING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FOR HARD SURFACING TRAILS AT

## DAKINS LAKE

Special Projects Ranger Williams said the proposal requests funds to pave a trail all around the new lake—approximately 6,235 feet. Trails to the north of the new lake would be left as natural as possible. From public input received on the Dakins Lake expansion project, Williams reported that paved trails are highly desired by the public. Paving would add about \$261,000 to the project. If grant funding is not received, a limestone trail will be installed.

SCC is requesting \$278,500 in grant funds and will provide the remaining \$224,700—funds that are already part of the current expansion plan.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve Resolution #2012-04 endorsing a grant application to the State Recreational Trails Program for hard surfacing trails at Dakins Lake. MCU.

### 12. APPROVE RESOLUTION ENDORSING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FOR HARD SURFACING THE HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL BETWEEN THE CITIES OF HUXLEY AND CAMBRIDGE

Williams said SCC was contacted by Huxley business members looking to close the gap on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail between Slater and Huxley in an effort to connect to the High Trestle Trail. Landowners are not willing to sell property to enable connection for this segment. Therefore, paving this 3.8 miles (currently on the right-of-way from Highway 69 to Water Street in Cambridge where Phase 7 & 8 started), will allow time to find another solution and will increase the recreational use of this section of trail.

The total project is \$975,878. The grant fund request portion is \$731,000, and the match of \$244,878 would come from private funds. These matching funds could be held by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, in SCC's trust fund, or by another group in Huxley. Grant reimbursement would occur after expenditures. Williams said people in the Huxley area are fired up, and the Cambridge mayor and a city council member are on board. Both cities are willing to submit REAP grants to reduce total costs.

Williams explained that the board will need to support Story County Conservation's application and agree to maintain the project for 20 years. She said SCC is not committing match money at this time. Williams added that federal grants are due October 1 and that the future of pedestrian and bicycle funding is in question. Cox commented that maintenance would include repairs to concrete and asphalt, which would not be a large expense relative to the project. In fact, current costs of maintenance and mowing might be reduced, and there would be less horse damage to the trail with hard surfacing.

MOTION by Optsvedt, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve Resolution #2012-05 endorsing a grant application to the State Recreational Trails program for hard surfacing the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail between the cities of Huxley and Cambridge. MCU.

### 13. GENERAL UPDATES

The director gave the following updates:

- Four candidates were interviewed for the vegetation management specialist position. Cox expects a hiring decision to be made next week with new staff on board by mid-July.
- Cox has met with the landowner of the WRP parcel north of Roland and has a tentative

agreement to purchase the property. Plans are to utilize state funding to cover the appraised value of the property and private funds for the difference between the appraised value and the sale price. Pheasants Forever has agreed to provide the balance; no county funds will be used. Cox's goal is to bring a resolution of support to the board in August. Roughly half of the 80 acres has already been planted to prairie; the balance is in corn, and Cox hopes that tiling and restoration work could begin this fall. NRCS will pay all the field work expense, engineer tiling work, and draw up seeding plans—similar to the recent Cooper's Marsh addition.

- Environmental education staff has been busy with nature camps. With two new naturalists, two new summer staff, and one veteran naturalist back from sick leave, everyone is doing a good job keeping ahead of the game in conducting the camps.
- Construction has been completed on the Hickory Grove jetties (fish habitat grant project).
- Cox reported that he will be meeting with Erv Klaas, NRCS staff, and Iowa Dept. of Agriculture staff regarding an application for a watershed improvement and restoration board grant. Grants are due the end of July.

Pease reported that Master River Steward Program participants assisted in creating a portage around the low head dam on the Skunk River as a service project. Approximately 36 hours were worked, and a lot was accomplished on a very hot evening. Pease added that he appreciated using McFarland Park for two of their sessions. The group will be doing projects all over Iowa, and Pease will report back to the board on those efforts in September. Tedesco said he supports the endeavor to change drainage districts to watershed categories in the county restructuring report. He hopes that the board will support this in the future.

#### 14. IOWA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARDS UPDATE

Hornstein said the board of directors met on June 15 in Ames.

- The new Outdoor Adventure Guide is out and can be purchased at county conservation board offices or online at [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com). Hornstein acknowledged Tom Hazelton and Julie Moss for their efforts on this major project.
- Registration materials for the fall conference have been distributed. Pre-conference activities are offered on Thursday, and the state board will host a fish fry Thursday night. Return of registrations is requested as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for reserving buses for field trips.
- Fifty-three counties have already paid annual dues. Hornstein said that all counties paid dues last year.
- There will be a push for IWill at the fall conference.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Tedesco, second by Hornstein, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.  
Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Conservation Board

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Story County