

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, September 14, 2010
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

1. Chair W. Clinton called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Wayne Clinton – present	Steve Lekwa	Mike Meetz
Erin Wilgenbusch – present	Jolene Van Waus	Linda Meetz
Ted Tedesco – present	Rick Carter	
Don Toms – present	Dustin Eighmy	
Joyce Hornstein – present		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Guests and staff were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
Chair Clinton mentioned items in the supplemental packet.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by E. Wilgenbusch, SECOND by T. Tedesco, to approve the minutes of the August 9 meeting. Wayne Clinton noted a correction under #18 (Other), clarifying that his comment about the Johnson County Conservation Center was that the interior of the facility was built by staff. Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
MOTION by D. Toms, SECOND by T. Tedesco, to approve all claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES
Director Lekwa reported that most expenses are on track at this point of the fiscal year and end of the summer. A \$4,000 donation was received today from ITC Midwest towards the Touch-A-Life Trail.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
Clinton, Hornstein, and Lekwa will be attending the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Conference in Council Bluffs on September 16-18. Hornstein noted that the correct date of the next trails committee meeting is September 30.
9. COMMUNICATION
Lekwa said he has been in contact with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) regarding the purchase of property owned by the late Bob Cooper. The family would like to sell the remainder of the 40-acre tract now enrolled in the wetland reserve program. Story County Pheasants Forever and the INHF are interested in pursuing this addition to the existing Cooper's Prairie Marsh.
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
M. Meetz, chair of the Olav Smedal Award Committee, announced that:

- Nominations for the 2010 award are being sought through October. The Story County Conservation Board (two members) co-sponsors the award with the Ames Izaak Walton League (three members).
- He is interested in providing prairie seed to the Jennett Heritage Area or for roadsides.
- Pat Schlarbaum, non-game wildlife technician, is looking for a site for an osprey nest structure. Schlarbaum has been looking at property north of Sleepy Hollow and has materials for the structure.

11. APPOINT DUSTIN EIGHMY AS A PEACE OFFICER FOR STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION

Chair Clinton read the statement of appointment, and Dustin Eighmy was sworn in by reading the affirmation of statement. Board members welcomed Eighmy to Story County Conservation.

12. APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COSTS TO DECATUR COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

After reviewing options with Assistant County Attorney Owen, Lekwa recommended that the board accept the remainder of Dustin Eighmy's law enforcement training agreement. Lekwa added that the format of these agreements differs among agencies, but it is appropriate that Story County Conservation reimburse Decatur County Conservation for this contract expense.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to reimburse Decatur County Conservation Board for Dustin Eighmy's law enforcement training costs. MCU.

13. APPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD AND RYAN WIEMOLD

Upon advice of the county attorney, Lekwa noted that the proposed agreement is based on the Story County Sheriff's training agreement.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by D. Toms, to approve law enforcement training agreement between Story County Conservation Board and Ryan Wiemold. MCU.

14. APPROVE AMENDED EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ITC MIDWEST LLC

Lekwa explained that ITC Midwest will be rebuilding a high-tension line less prone to storm damage across Peterson Park. ITC is purchasing an updated agreement at the appraised value/acre and proposes to pay Story County \$21,177 in exchange for a perpetual easement.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to recommend approval of the amended easement agreement with ITC Midwest LLC for signature by the Story County Board of Supervisors and that the director request funds from the sale of the property to be placed in the conservation reserve fund. MCU.

15. APPROVE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE JENNETT HERITAGE AREA

Lekwa commented that this is a standard agreement that governs how Story County Conservation accepts and uses this \$402,000 grant.

MOTION by D. Toms, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve agreement between Story County Conservation Board and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for Acquisition of the Jennett Heritage Area. MCU.

16. APPROVE CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNTING AT HICKORY GROVE PARK
MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by D. Toms, to approve temporary suspension of refuge status for controlled goose hunting at Hickory Grove Park for the dates of October 23, 2010 – January 12, 2011. MCU.

17. DISCUSSION OF FOCUS GROUPS

E. Wilgenbusch explained the purpose of the focus groups was to talk with different user groups (trail users, fishermen, etc.) for feedback on what SCC is currently doing and get input on other things the public would like to see. Wilgenbusch stated she has not had a chance to do anything yet but will forward questions via email to other board members and the director to use. Tedesco suggested that he and Lekwa meet with the Ames anglers' group, and Mike Meetz said he could help by soliciting feedback at an upcoming Big Bluestem Audubon Society meeting. Wilgenbusch welcomes aggregate feedback and interesting comments.

18. OTHER

Chair Clinton asked if the board wanted to talk about the upcoming vote re: IACCB membership fees. T. Tedesco thinks the leap in membership dues is drastic and too quick. He understands what the board is trying to accomplish but would prefer the increase occur over a three-year period. E. Wilgenbusch agreed with Tedesco's comments. J. Hornstein reminded board members that the proposal will improve the county conservation board system, that it is important to re-organize at this time, and that additional funds will be needed to replace the executive secretary position.

Director Lekwa reported that the Skunk River Bridge concrete on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail is done! Herberger Construction is in the process of removing forms; the sub-contractor will be installing safety fencing soon. Con-Struct is back on site after almost a year and is cleaning up erosion damage. A deep cut is in the Harker mile, with the north side of the cut dropping 30-40 feet below grade and making the slope unstable. The county engineer and FEMA staff have looked at this area. Fill dirt is being hauled and the grade widened where needed. Lekwa said he hopes for dry weather in the next few weeks to start applying surfacing.

Lekwa also reported that installation of the playground equipment at Breezy Bay Campground should wrap up tomorrow—weather permitting.

Mike Meetz commented that the greenbelt trail from E18 to Soper's Mill is now usable. Members of the trails committee cleared timber and fixed the swinging bridge.

According to Lekwa, all known storm damage sites have been mapped, and that information has been submitted to FEMA. When a project officer is assigned, site inspections will be done, estimates prepared, and projects categorized.

J. Hornstein announced that two baskets of items were gathered by Lekwa and Hornstein and are being donated by Story County Conservation for silent auction at the IACCB Conference.

Clinton said that D. Toms' term will expire December 31, 2010. The board of supervisors has received one application for a replacement board member. A brief discussion occurred on term limits, and Clinton suggested further discussion if the board would like to see the current five-year limit changed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by D. Toms, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.

Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board