

Story County Conservation Board  
April 12, 2021  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa via Zoom

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: Due To Recommendations To Social Distance In Order To Help Slow The Spread Of The COVID-19 Virus, Public Access To The Meeting Will Be Provided Via Zoom.
2. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM
3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Craig Meyers – present	Mike Cox	
Christine Laumer – present	Marianne Harrelson	
Nancy Franz – present		
Jim Pease - present		
Ted Tedesco – present		
Linda Murken – present		
4. STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE SECTION 21.8.1
5. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS – MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Harrelson introduced Brittany Ridgway, our new Administrative Assistant.
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
March 8, 2021. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
8. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS  
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.
9. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – Pease questioned the salary adjustment lines. Harrelson explained that this was to balance the budgeted amount with the individual department salaries. Cox noted that we will submit budget amendments next week and will bring forward an acknowledgment next month.
10. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS  
The next board meeting is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>. Cox mentioned a couple of events that are not on this calendar – an informal supporter’s event is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at TELC. Some staff and board members will be there for a “meet and greet” and to give out trees and plugs to the supporters. On May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 AM in the multipurpose room at McFarland, the Board of Supervisors will be recognizing the Conservation Department. This is also the first day for new summer employees to complete safety and orientation training.

## 11. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Action Forms – Summer new hires effective 5/11/21. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Harrelson made note of a change to Brittany Burton’s effective date to 4/16/21. MCU with the noted date change.
- B. Consideration Of Contract Between Beverley Chance And Story County Conservation Board For Campground Attendant Duties At Dakins Lake From July 12 To October 31, 2021. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Approved Fish Habitat Stamp Grant Agreement With The Iowa Department Of Natural Resources #21-02. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. Pease questioned the completion date of 2022 on the agreement. Cox indicated that we have two years to spend the funds and we can request extensions if needed. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of Contract With Shive-Hattery For \$12,400.00 For Signage Design Services. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. Pease questioned the temporary signage at Slater. Cox clarified this is transitional signage to address the transition from the High Trestle Trail to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. This will design wayfinding signage for the entirety of the HOINT. The Slater portion was budgeted. There are funds left over from the Slater Connector paving to cover the additional costs. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Agreement With Shive-Hattery For Design Services For \$2,550.00. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. This is for the walleye rearing pond design. Cox noted that we would like to get the design and construction of the inlet structure while the lake is still down. This is included in the grant. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Purchase Of Park Amenities For Tedesco Connector Trail For \$6,500.00. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. Pease questioned the location of the bike repair station being close to the one already at TELC. Franz indicated this location would be used by different trail users and this is the best location due to the widening of the trail in that area. Cox noted that this will be paid with funding from the community fundraising project with OASCO and other partners. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of Contract Between Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa And Story County Conservation For Natural Resources Improvements At Jennett Heritage Area For \$12,465.60. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. Franz questioned if we are going to need to reconstruct some of the banks of that creek. Cox indicated that it had been discussed and it was decided to allow the creek to naturally move and focus our efforts on vegetation management. This work is budgeted in the FY22 budget. MCU.
- H. Consideration Of Contract Between Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa And Story County Conservation For Natural Resources Improvements At West Peterson Park For \$6,232.80. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. Cox indicated the work will be done on the northwest side of West Peterson, to the right of the entrance, up on the hill. MCU.
- I. Consideration Of Strategic Plan FY21-22. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

## 12. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board that RFP's were released to design firms for the McFarland Lake renovation. There is an adjoining landowner that is going to move forward with putting in a CREP wetland. We will not start construction on the lake until that is finished. We are looking for additional funding for the renovation project and we are applying for a couple of grants. There are two grants we are applying for to continue paving on the HOINT. One is from the CARES Act (\$5 million dedicated to trails) and the other is a congressional request through Representative Feenstra (\$1-3 million). The Hickory Grove grand reopening is scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the City of Colo and their annual Colo Crossroads Days. This will bring a lot of people to the park. Some members from the DNR may be there to celebrate the lake project.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Pease mentioned that Ames received recognition as "River Town of the Year" from the Iowa Rivers Revival and will be given on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This will also be the dedication of the lowhead dam mitigation project at South River Valley Park. The Friends of Ada Hayden is trying to convince the City of Ames to make Rose Prairie (northwest of Ada Hayden) into a park rather than a housing development. He attended the virtual Iowa Water Conference and picked up a lot of good information that he will be share with everyone once he gets it all sorted out. Franz has been getting out to some of the properties and they are in great shape. She attempted to visit some other County's properties and their trails are still not cleared from the Derecho. She biked the whole paved section on the HOINT. She has been attending some of the classes and presentations by the naturalists. She has enjoyed working with the members of the DEI group and ISU MBA students. Pease asked if the report would be coming to the board. She and Cox need to ask the committee what the next steps should be. She would like to have one of the students come and present to the board at one of our next meetings. She attended the TEAM day at McFarland clearing debris. She hiked the new trail at Hickory Grove and got a tour of the new shop. They did a great job at reworking that space. Laumer has been taking Finley out for walks at TELC and looking forward to showing her all of the parks in the future. She asked where the current COVID-19 data was at for Story County in relation to opening up the center. Cox provided current information and indicated that the center is open to the public, but we are not allowing multipurpose room rentals at this time. Tedesco reported that the muskrat family at TELC has moved over by the residences. He received an email from Pat Shehan regarding sponsorships to repair a reservoir and requested the Ames Anglers to be involved. He is planning to attend their next meeting and invited Pat and any other board members to attend. Meyers has been hiking at Hickory Grove and watching the lake level. It looks like the lake is at about 30% and slowly improving. He is helping with the photo contest judging. There are a lot more entries this year, which means more people are getting out in our parks.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

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Recording Secretary

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