

Story County Conservation Board

July 13, 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 Zoom.

Members of the public can participate by using the information at the end of this agenda.

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

Erica Place

GUESTS

Rick Deitz

Landon Wolfe

Alexis Aurandt

Jeff Iles

Garry Greenley

John Pohlman

Greg Vitale

Steve Burgason

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

A. ISU Rowing Team Presentation – Members of the ISU Rowing Team presented information on a proposed boathouse and dock at Hickory Grove Park. The rowing team is a sports club and is not fully funded by Iowa State University but they compete against other division one universities that are fully funded. They would like to build a boathouse to further their club and expand rowing at ISU. Drake University just opened their boathouse last year and the University of Iowa has a multimillion-dollar boathouse. The ISU team does not currently have a boathouse or home facility. They would like to build a 30' x 80' post frame metal boathouse. There would be no plumbing or electricity. The dock would be 10' x 56' with a 6' x 18' aluminum ramp. They may be able to offer community learn-to-row days and expand their program to allow community rowing. The dock would be available for public. They will consider operating the beach concessions. They anticipate the cost of this project to be fully funded by alumni and other benefactors. They would like to get approval to start the project this year and be completed by the summer or fall of 2021. The club will acquire property insurance for any damages that may happen to the dock or boathouse. ISU Rec Services will handle all of the legal and maintenance issues. Some of the board members voiced some potential concerns, which will be addressed contractually.

B. Burgason Presentation – Steve Burgason lives in Ames along the TELC Phase 3 trail corridor. Several of the property owners along the trail would like to collaborate with

SCCB to help enhance the trail. They would like to improve the corridor for native plants and animals. This would be a unique opportunity to join the private sector with the public sector. There are quite a few ISU teaching farms along the trail that may use the trail for educational purposes. A proposal was submitted outlining the proposed improvements. The Outdoor Alliance of Story County (OASCO) has tentatively agreed to be a conduit bridging the public and private sector to raise money. They are already preparing to remove all of the invasive species trees and shrubs in the next week. The next phase would begin the end of September or early October and would include design and implementation of enhancements like tree and shrub plantings, bird and bat house, park bench, bike repair station and doggie station placements. They would like to extend the inspirational and educational signage at TELC along the trail corridor. Steve has volunteered to help raise money for the project along with the OASCO. These additional improvements to the trail corridor would not cost the SCCB any additional money. Director Cox has approved these efforts.

7. STAFF REPORT – Erica Place, Outreach Coordinator submitted a written annual report.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 8, 2020. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Meyers. Franz questioned a claim for testing a fire alarm. Harrelson explained that this was for fire alarm inspections and services for a year. Meyers questioned a claim to CD Body shop. Cox explained that this was for the docks at Hickory Grove. Meyers also wanted to know what the claim was to Strauss Security Systems. Harrelson indicated that this is the annual cost for our security system, keyless entry and alarms. Pease asked about a claim to Schwig Outdoors which was for a dock at West Peterson. He also asked about a claim to Jensen Excavating which was for gully repair on the HOINT between Cambridge and Maxwell. MCU.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Pease wanted to know how much of the remaining \$426,000.00 FY20 budget would be amended in to the FY21 budget. Cox indicated that approximately \$368,000.00 will be moved.

11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Our next board meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2020.

12. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Action Forms

Correction to Resolution #2020-04 for FY21 salaries, effective 6/21/20 (payable 7/10/20) for Brandon Clough @ \$20.40/hr. and Marianne Harrelson @ \$24.69/hr. Correction to Step and Longevity Adjustments for FY21 - effective 3/14/21, Marianne Harrelson @ \$25.18/hr. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Starting The Hiring Process For Full Time Conservation Technician Vacancy. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz. Cox explained that we had an employee leave in the beginning of May. At that time, the Board of Supervisors implemented a hiring freeze. We would like to ask them for an exemption from the

hiring freeze to fill this position. Franz asked that we also mention to the BOS the increased usage at Hickory Grove Park as an additional reason for the exemption request. MCU.

- C. Consideration Of Memorial Bench For Chris Jutting At McFarland Park For \$1,400.00. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of Memorial Bench For Dennis Jones At Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. Pease noted that they asked for the bench to be placed at the Skunk River Bridge and wanted to know if that was even possible. Franz indicated that it should be able to be placed on the east side of the bridge but not the west side. Cox said that we will work with them on the bench placement. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Naming The Touch-A-Life Trail Overlook Deck At McFarland Park The Sally And John Greve: McFarland Reflections Overlook. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. Cox mentioned the Greve's involvement with Town and County Kiwanis and in the community. They are tremendous supporters. The Kiwanis club wanted to do this in their honor. MCU.
- F. Acceptance Of The Conservation Finance Feasibility Study. Pease noted that this would only be accepting the study. We would not be moving forward with anything else at this time. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of Plans For The Hickory Grove Park Road Resurfacing Project. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Franz. The estimate on this project is right at what we had budgeted it for. Cox wanted to thank Tyler Sparks with the engineer's office for all of his work putting this together for us. He did all of the design, the specifications, contract, cost estimate, etc. and saved us a lot of money. This is scheduled for public hearing tomorrow at the Board of Supervisors meeting. MCU.
- H. Consideration Of Contract With Iowa State University Water Quality Research Lab For The McFarland Lake Watershed Management Plan For \$12,888.60. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Cox explained that water quality monitoring has been completed by ISU. The tests showed that we have some issues with the lake that need to be addressed. This contract will analyze the data and make a management plan for the lake. This is the next step in the restoration/renovation of the lake. MCU.
- I. Consideration Of Contract Between Conservation Corps Of Iowa (CCI) For A Restoration Project At Hickory Grove Park For \$6,144.60. Combined the motion and approval with items J and K.
- J. Consideration Of Contract Between Conservation Corps Of Iowa For A Trail Enhancement Project At McFarland Park For \$6,144.60. Combined the motion and approval with items I and K.
- K. Consideration Of Contract With Conservation Corps Of Iowa For Natural Resource Work For \$6,912.67. Motion to combine with items I and J and approve. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.
- L. Consideration Of Change Order No. 01 Between Howrey Construction, Inc And Story

County Conservation For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Phase 2 Paving Project From Huxley To The South Skunk River Bridge In The Increased Amount Of \$4,995.00.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. Cox explained that when the current contractor got on site, it was determined that the apron or approach to the bridge was not constructed correctly. This needs to be removed and construct a different apron that fits and rests appropriately on the bridge footings. MCU.

- M. Consideration Of Contract With Williamson Electric For Roadside Management Shop Addition Electrical Service For \$6,894.00. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

13. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox indicated that Heather and Jerry are updating the lobby and Multipurpose room. He thanked everyone for helping with the ICCS conference and that we are still planning on holding the conference, with less attendance. We have a pretty robust mitigation plan and remain flexible to the evolving COVID -19 situation. Franz indicated that masks are going to be required for all of the indoor activities and that the executive group is meeting every two weeks. Pease would like to propose that we postpone the conference a year. Franz indicated that postponing was already suggested to the ICCS CEO and it was declined. Murken indicated that the COVID-19 numbers are going up in Story County and that could be hastened in the next few weeks with ISU students returning. Franz suggested that we might be able to make some other changes and move the programs outdoors. Set up tents in the hotel parking lot. There are still lots of unknowns. Tedesco and Meyers voiced their concerns about continuing with the conference. They suggested that we try to determine exactly how many people are truly considering coming to the conference. Laumer wanted to know if we did not have the conference this year, would we be able to request to host a conference in three years (after the other two years that are already scheduled). Franz suggested that we ask the ICCS Board to consider postponing the conference again. Pease asked Cox to give an update on the TELC Phase 3 project. He indicated that the paving is essentially complete. HOINT Phase 2 is moving along well. The trail is essentially done from the Skunk River to 570th. They will continue to move west and should be done with all of the paving in a couple weeks. There are a few issues that have come up, but hope that they are nothing significant to hold up the progress. The PRT has been completed. We are waiting on the grass to establish in order to satisfy erosion control. DOT will then be able to approve project closeout. Hickory Grove Rotenone treatment is scheduled for August 4th.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz is looking forward to the “park packs” that have been put together by our Naturalists and the Ames Public Library. They are now available at the library to check out and use. Meyers wanted to know how the story recordings that were done several months ago were being distributed. Cox indicated that he would check into that and let the board know. Tedesco was at Hickory last weekend and really liked the new parking lot for the dock by the campground. Pease indicated that he had a meeting with Director Cox, Bruce Ehresman, Dr. Tom Rosburg and staff at Jennett Heritage Area. There were concerns about how the prairie had been burned this spring. Luke and Ryan did a really nice job at explaining why we are managing it the way we are. This is the kind of thing that we need to communicate with the public.

C. Other – None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.



Recording Secretary



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