

Story County Conservation Board
December 11, 2023
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Jim Pease – present

Craig Meyers – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Jake Smith

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mike Meetz let the board know that the REAP plan has been updated and the recipient for the Olav Smedal Award has been selected.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 13, 2023. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 8th.

9. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

A. Action Forms

Re-hire effective 12/18/23, Alexandra Ellsworth, Natural Resource Aide, @ \$13.75/hr.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

10. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (All items under the consent agenda will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time the Board votes on the motion.)

A. Consideration Of Tree Removal Contract With Finco Wood Service And Story County Conservation On Prairie Rail Trail For \$9,000.00

B. Consideration Of Amendment To Agreement For Professional Services With ISG, Inc. For Additional Construction Administration And Observation For The Soper's Mill Water Trail Access Improvements

C. Consideration Of Change Order No.5 For The McFarland Lake Renovation Project For A Deduct Of \$7,916.00 For Aaron Crane Construction

D. Approval Of Story County Conservation Board Meeting Dates For 2024

E. Consideration Of FY24 Compensation For Former Collective Bargaining Unit Employees

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Consideration Of Agreement For Professional Services With Snyder And Associates For Revisions To The Story County Trails Plan For \$55,500.00. Cox noted that three proposals were received and the committee unanimously selected Snyder. The cost of the contract is more than the amount budgeted and the difference will be funded from the Trust Fund. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- B. Consideration Of Easement With The Iowa State University Research Park. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the board would like to table this item. Pease and Franz withdrew their MOTION/SECOND to approve the item and change their MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz to table this item until the February 12th meeting to determine the impacts on the trail relocation and the effects to our property. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Offer To Buy Real Estate And Acceptance Agreement With Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation For The Deppe Farm Consisting Of 125 M/L Acres In Section 18 Of Milford Township. Cox announced the substantial donor that made this purchase possible as Kenneth Bauge. His donation is in memory of his late wife, Sandy. This donation along with the current *Partners* pledge and the LWCF grant have made this purchase possible. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- D. Approval Of Story County Conservation FY25 Capital Improvement Project Plan. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. Cox reviewed the changes that were made since last month's board meeting. MCU.
- E. Approve FY25 Conservation and IRVM Budget Proposals. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. The budget work session with the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024, at 9:00 AM. Cox noted the changes made since the last meeting. MCU.

12. UPDATES

- A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the Hickory Grove sewer, HOINT 3A/3B, and HOINT 4,5,6 bid lettings, the Story County CIP, sustainable funding, and the REAP plan.
- B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz attended the OWLS program, hiked around McFarland Lake, visited several other Iowa County parks, and assisted with the REAP plan updates and the Olav Smedal Award. Pease assisted with the sustainable funding planning the REAP plan updates, and the Olav Smedal Award, and he also hiked the trail around McFarland Lake. Meyers also helped with the REAP updates and the Olav Smedal Award. He also attended the Iowa Nature Summit where Pease was honored as one of Iowa's Nature Champions. Tedesco thanked the board and staff for working with him for 15 years. Murken announced that Erica Place will be appointed as the new SCC board member. She mentioned that the BOS and some other staff attended the Iowa Leadership Exchange and the county is going to develop a curriculum for training new members of boards and commissions. She will be sending an email to the SCC board members asking them to provide input on what they feel needs to be included as part of the training.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.


Recording Secretary


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