

Story County Conservation Board
January 8, 2024
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Christine Laumer – present
Nancy Franz – present via Zoom
Jim Pease – present
Craig Meyers – present
Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox
Marianne Harrelson
Sara Carmichael – via Zoom

GUESTS

Mike Meetz
Rick Dietz

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Laumer administered the Oath of Office to Erica Place, who will serve through 2028.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS – Pease requested that item E be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Cox requested that the Closed Session be stricken from the Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mike Meetz told the board that he will be presenting the Olav Smedal Award on January 21st at the Conservation Center during the Skunk River Paddlers annual meeting.

6. ELECT 2024 OFFICERS

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, nominating Pease as Chair. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Pease. MCU.

Laumer turned the gavel over to Pease, who chaired to remainder of the meeting.

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Place, nominating Meyers as Vice-Chair. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Place, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Meyers. MCU.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz, nominating Laumer as Secretary. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Place, that nomination close with a unanimous ballot cast for Laumer. MCU.

7. STAFF REPORT

Sara Carmichael, Watershed Coordinator, submitted a written annual report. She reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 11, 2023. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – Place noted that the years on the top of the Revenue spreadsheet are incorrect. Harrelson will get them corrected.

11. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 12th.

12. 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.)

Pease requested that Item E be removed for discussion.

A. Consideration Of The Memorandum Of Understanding By And Between The City Of Maxwell And Story County Conservation Board, Story County Iowa

B. Consideration Of Contract With Snyder & Associates For Construction Administration And Construction Observation Services For Paving The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Between The South Skunk River Bridge And S-14

C. Consideration Of Bid Award And Approval Of Construction Contract For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Project Phases 3A&3B

D. Consideration Of CRP Contract Buy-Out For Deppe Family Conservation Area

E. Consideration Of 2024 Legislative Priorities – Removed for discussion

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Place. MCU.

E. Discussion and Consideration of 2024 Legislative Priorities – Pease would like to have a fourth bullet added to the Water Quality section to “restore state funding for stream and river water quality sensors for the Iowa Water Quality Information System. MOTION by Meyers with additions, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

13. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the Prairie Valley wetland, a grant agreement for Prairie Valley and TELC, he will follow up with the board on the closed session item, and the Trails Plan kickoff meeting.

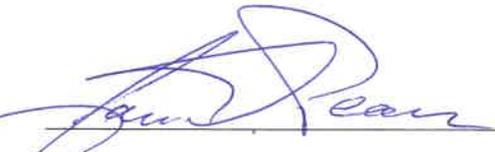
B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Laumer has attended meeting regarding funding efforts. Murken thanked everyone for their feedback regarding boards and commissions training and noted that Laumer will be on the training committee. Franz reconnected with Al Weber and he is interested in partnering with SCC in funding efforts. She has been attending DEI in Conservation Communities of Practice webinars. Pease has also been working on the funding discussions and will be speaking at the Audubon and the Skunk River Paddlers annual meetings.

14. CLOSED SESSION – removed from the agenda.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.


Recording Secretary


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