

Story County Conservation Board
February 12, 2024
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present
Craig Meyers – present
Christine Laumer – present
Nancy Franz – present
Erica Place – present
Linda Murken – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox
Marianne Harrelson
Tyler Kelley

GUESTS

Rick Sanders
Luke Monat
Jake Wilson
Crystal Rink

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS – Director Cox requested that Additional Items A and B be moved up before the staff report.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

5. STAFF REPORT

Tyler Kelley, Vegetation Management Specialist, submitted a written IRVM annual report. He reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 8, 2024. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – None

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 11th. Cox noted that the Supporters Dinner is scheduled for June 13th.

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.)

Pease requested that Item E be removed for discussion.

- A. Consideration Of Contract Between Terry Adams Jr. And Story County Conservation Board For Campground Attendant Duties At Hickory Grove Park From July 15 To October 31, 2024
- B. Consideration Of Contract With Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC For Firewood Sales At Hickory Grove Park Campground And Dakins Lake Campground
- C. Consideration Of Contract Between Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa And Story County Conservation For Natural Resources Improvements At Jennett Heritage Area For \$6,200.00
- D. Consideration Of Grant Agreement Between And The Story County Conservation Board And Iowa Department Of Natural Resources For Conservation Efforts At Prairie Valley

Preserve And Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor
MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Consideration Of Easement With The Iowa State University Research Park. Director Cox provided some information regarding the details of the easement request. Rick Saunders, President and Director of ISU Research Park was available to answer questions. MOTION by Franz with the addition of the financial information to be documented, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.
- B. Discussion And Acceptance Of The Mitigation Bank Feasibility Study Report Prepared By Shive-Hattery. Luke Monat and Jake Wilson with Shive-Hattery presented details of the report and answered questions. Cox noted that the Board of Supervisors has removed the FY25 budget request to continue with the next steps of this study. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Professional Services Agreement With Bolton And Menk For McFarland Shop Design For \$41,500.00. Cox noted that the Board of Supervisors has not yet approved the construction budget for this project, but asked the board to approve this agreement now and if the BOS approves the construction budget, we will move this agreement forward to them for approval. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of First Reading Of Land Acquisition Policy. MOTION by Laumer with noted changes, SECOND by Franz. Board members made some suggested changes and updates. Cox will update the policy, have the County Attorney review it, and bring the policy back for a second reading at another meeting. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Final Plans, Specifications, Form Of Contract And Authorization To Release Bids For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Improvements Phases 4-6. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Place. The BOS Public Hearing to release bids is February 13th and the bid opening is scheduled for March 5th. The bid award will be on March 12th. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Easement With The Story County Soil And Water Conservation District For Wetland Construction At Prairie Valley Park. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Place. Cox reviewed the area for this easement and where the wetland will be constructed. The approval of this easement is contingent upon final legal review prior to the BOS approval. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of 28E Agreement With The Iowa Department Of Agriculture And Land Stewardship And The City Of Ames For Wetland Construction At Prairie Valley Park. The approval of this 28E Agreement is contingent upon final legal review prior to the BOS approval. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

12. UPDATES

- A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the Bison sculpture coming to TELC, Story County Soil and Water Conservation District annual report, a grant application for Hannum's Mill, the FY25 budget work session, and an authorization for a bat survey and tree removal to be completed on the HOINT.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements on the Board: Laumer attended the initial trails master plan meeting and is working on the Story County Alliance for Philanthropy awards. Franz attended the FY25 budget work session, the trail master plan meeting, and hiking the trails at McFarland Park. Place attended the FY25 budget work session, addressed nominations for the Haage Heritage Award, and legislative bills regarding land acquisition. Pease attended the Mitigation Bank feasibility report meeting.

13. CLOSED SESSION – Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j)
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Place to move into closed session at 7:55 PM by Roll call vote.
MOTION by Place, SECOND by Meyers to end closed session and reconvene to Open Session at 8:47 PM. Roll call vote.
14. CONSIDERATION OF ACTION (IF NEEDED) FROM CLOSED SESSION – MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. The board rejects the terms offered for the real estate agreement.
15. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.


Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation Board