

Story County Conservation Board
September 9, 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 – present

STAFF

Mike Cox
Marianne Harrelson
Jerry Keys

GUESTS

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. STAFF REPORT – Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator, reviewed his annual report and was available for comments and to answer questions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 12, 2024. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – Board members had a few questions and Cox or Harrelson provided explanations.

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 14th. Harrelson noted that the FY26 budget due date has been extended so the December meeting can be moved back to the second Monday. All board members agreed to move the meeting to December 9th.

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 Change Order No. 2 For Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Project Phases 4-6 For \$3,601.74 From Wicks Construction Inc
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Place. MCU.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

A. Consideration Of Final Plans, Specifications, Form Of Contract, And Authorization To Release Bids For The McFarland Shop Replacement Project. Harrelson indicated that the project plans and manual files were attached to the agenda as a link. The files are too big to attach as a document. Cox provided information regarding the design and project costs. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer. MCU

B. Consideration Of Conservation Easement Granted By The Estate Constantine J. Stassis For Natural Resource Protection. Director Cox provided some background regarding the easement. The executor of the estate contacted Cox about donating the property, but it does not meet our acquisition policy. The property does have some important native components. The owner wanted the property to remain a wildlife refuge and go to an environmental organization. Since it does not meet the criteria for acquisition, the executor wanted to know if there were other options for protecting the land. Cox indicated that a conservation easement can be put in place. If approved, the executor will sell the property with the conservation easement attached and give SCC the proceeds to go towards future land acquisitions. Place had some concerns with the easement and requested some revisions be made to the WHEREAS section of the easement and to the exhibit. MOTION by Laumer with items requested to be revised, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

12. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the upcoming ICCS conference, Heart of Iowa Nature Trail paving and farm accesses, Hickory Grove wastewater, and Story County Water and Land Legacy informational brochures.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements on the Board: Laumer has been working with the SCWLL committee. Place has been assisting with SCWLL presentations and working on the memorial policy. Franz attended the Prairie Valley tour with the District 1 meeting and the staff appreciation and has biked and hiked at TELC. Meyers also attended the staff appreciation and helped with the Lincoln Highway Days booth.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.



Recording Secretary



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