

Story County Conservation Board
June 9, 2025
Story County Conservation McFarland Shop, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present
Christine Laumer – present
Erica Place – present
Jim Pease – present
Judy Levings – present
Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox
Marianne Harrelson
Brandon Clough

GUESTS

Mike Meetz
Lorna Carroll

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorna Carroll had some questions about the outside lights at the shop, in the shelter, and at the ranger's residence. She would like to request a time for her to come and present to the staff about the Lights Out Ames project. Mike Meetz mentioned that one of the summer camp programs will be coming out to his place this week and reminded the board that SCC staff have a monthly time slot on KHOI if anyone would like things announced on the radio.

5. STAFF REPORT

Brandon Clough, Natural Resource Specialist, submitted a written annual report. He reviewed the report and was available to comment and answer questions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 12, 2025 Minutes. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Harrelson indicated that field staff are purchasing last-minute items. The last day for FY25 expenses is today. Cox noted that there will be a large amount of the budget lapsed this year.

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 14th. The Supporters Luncheon and Get Outdoors Day is June 14th, and the HOINT ribbon cutting and bike ride is August 9th.

10. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

A. Action Forms. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Place. Cox mentioned that the step increases will be approved monthly now instead of annually, as they have been in the past. MCU.

11. 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 Resolution #2025-04 Approving The FY26 Salaries For Story County Conservation Employees
 - B. Consideration Of Three Contracts Between Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa And Story County Conservation For Natural Resources Improvements At Various Parks For A Total Of \$20,100
 - C. Consideration Of Replacement Of Typhoon Slide At Hickory Grove Park From Boland Recreation For \$10,581.00. (Unbudgeted)
 - D. Consideration Of Story County Cellular Phone Policy
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

12. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Consideration Of Updates To The Story County Conservation Employee Handbook. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Place. Cox indicated that we received all handbook updates from HR, so we are asking for approval of the updated Employee Handbook instead of solely approving the lunch period that has been discussed in the past. He reviewed all changes in the handbook. MC, 4 in favor/1 opposed.
- B. Consideration Of Professional Services Agreement With Shive-Hattery For Hickory Grove Beach Design For \$120,960. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Pease. This cost is higher than the amount noted in the Master Plan. The IDNR is assisting with design and construction. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Cooperative Agreement With Iowa Department Of Natural Resources For Financial Support Of Hickory Grove Beach Restoration. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Levings. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of Acceptance Of Acquisition Plan For Real Property In Union Township 16, 21, And 22. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. The purchase of this property has been in our queue for several years now. INHF purchased this property and has acquired several adjacent parcels. Due to the additional labor expenses that this acquisition will require, a request for one additional FTE will be made at a future meeting. MC, 4 in favor/1 abstention.
- E. Consideration Of Acceptance Of Acquisition Plan For Real Property In Howard Township Section 18. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. This parcel is adjacent to the Osheim property. SCC is receiving a real estate proceeds donation that will be used to purchase this parcel. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Acceptance Of Acquisition Plan For Real Property In Howard Township Section 19. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Place. This property is adjacent to the South Skunk River Greenbelt. Funds for this purchase will be from a donation. MCU.

13. UPDATES

- A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on violent intruder staff training, volunteer efforts by Madi Nolte, establishing a Greenbelt Trail work group, development on Manatt's property south of Highway 30, and the Iowa Forest Resiliency Partnership Program grant that we are applying for.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements on the Board: Laumer advised the board that the City of Ames has podcasts on their website that provide information about things going on in the city. Place indicated that she will not be available for the July meeting. Levings attended the Landers Prairie dedication and department recognition, biked on the HOINT, and met the Collins Mayor on the trail. Pease attended the TELC prairie burn, the Landers Prairie dedication, and the Deppe celebration of life. He has been working on the new conservation center planning, presented at the last OWLS program. Meyers has also been working on the new conservation center planning and was happy to see the kayak rentals at HGP are being used.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Levings, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.



Recording Secretary



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