

Story County Conservation Board  
September 8, 2025  
Story County Conservation Center, 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

Michael Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Jerry Keys

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

Barry Starmer

Craig Krapfl

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz reminded the board that he is accepting nominations for the Olav Smedal Conservation Award.

5. STAFF REPORT

Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator, submitted a written annual report. He reviewed the report and was available to comment and answer questions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 11, 2025 Minutes. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>.

10. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Place. 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 Contract With Riverbend Outdoor Improvements, For Concrete Work At West Peterson Park For \$13,016.45.

B. Consideration Of Change Order No. 5 For Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Project Phases 4-6 For \$3,907.80 From Wicks Construction Inc.

C. Consideration Of Amended Wastewater Outfall Pipe Easement With The City Of Cambridge.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Place. MCU.

## 12. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Consideration Of First Reading Of Revisions To The Rules And Regulations For Snowmobile Use Of The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Place. There was some discussion between the SCC board members and the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club members regarding these rules and regulations, getting the word out to users outside of the club, signage, and enforcement. SCC will update the items discussed in the second reading at the October meeting and reiterate that our three primary concerns will continue to be infrastructure integrity, safety, and multi-use opportunities of the trail. MCU.
- B. Consideration Of Memorandum Of Understanding With The Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club For Use Of The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail And The Praeri Rail Trail. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Pease. Place questioned the use of the trail in places where the snow does not fall (ex., in the tunnel). Cox indicated that the club, in the past, has hauled snow to areas if able, or they will redirect/detour traffic from that area. SDSC will install and remove trail signage, groom and assist with trail maintenance, and report any damages or concerns to SCC staff. MCU.

## 13. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the Outdoor Alliance of Story County Donor Appreciation Dinner, the Story County Community Foundation reception, the Pheasants Forever banquet, bond project updates, the Skunk River Greenbelt Trail working group meeting, and the Conservation Center working group.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements on the Board: Laumer mentioned an upcoming EcoVision event at the Ames Public Library and the City of Ames' Recycling Survey for Ames residents. Meyers indicated that the Conservation Center working group visited the Webster County Conservation Center and he visited the Muscatine County Conservation Center on one of his own recent trips. Place mentioned updating the snowmobile information on our website, concerns about the City of Huxley's construction work near the HOINT trail, and possible meetings with Uncurbed Accessibility and the new IDNR Lake Restoration and Water Quality representative. Pease has been involved with some of the bond project meetings, and he is out biking again. Levings completed the Iowa Public Information Board's Open Meetings and Public Records training, attended an Iowa Young Birders program, and mentioned that the City of Ames has a survey out regarding urban deer hunting management. Murken indicated that she had a business call her to discuss water quality. She is hoping that business association may get more involved in water quality legislation.

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Place, SECOND by Laumer, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.



Recording Secretary



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