

Story County Conservation Board
January 11, 2021
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa via Zoom

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: Due To Recommendations To Social Distance In Order To Help Slow The Spread Of The COVID-19 Virus, Public Access To The Meeting Will Be Provided Via Zoom.

2. CALL TO ORDER: 5:31 PM

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Craig Meyers - present

Ted Tedesco – absent

Linda Murken – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Tyler Kelley

GUESTS

Jim Pease

4. STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE SECTION 21.8.1

5. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Laumer administered the Oath of Office to James Pease, who will serve through 2025.

6. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

8. ELECT 2021 OFFICERS

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

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

9. STAFF REPORT – Joe Kooiker, Vegetation Management Biologist, submitted a written annual report that highlighted the past year, current, in-progress and future projects. Tyler Kelley, Vegetation Management Specialist was available for comments and to answer questions.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 7, 2020. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

11. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. Pease questioned the claim to Journal Communications for an ad/magazine. Harrelson indicated the payment was for an ad in the Ames Livability Magazine. Pease asked what the payment to Agri Drain Corp was for. Cox indicated it was a budgeted item to replace the failing drain box system at Hickory Grove. Pease also wanted to know what the claim to Liberty Tire Service was for. Cox indicated it was for tires that have picked up in ditches, in our parks and clean-ups on the river. Lastly,

Pease asked about the claim to Manatt's. Harrelson indicated it was for the road resurfacing at Hickory Grove. Meyers asked about the claim to Menards. Harrelson indicated that the majority of this claim was for lumber and materials to build the bridge over the tubes at Hickory Grove. The rest of the claim was for Derecho cleanup and other miscellaneous items. MCU.

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

13. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 8th.

14. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Consideration Of Purchase Of Artwork At Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor For \$6,800. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- B. Consideration Of Prairie Seed Purchase From Diversity Farms For \$12,562.52. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. Cox indicated that some of this cost was already budgeted and some is for damages by a utility company south of the HOINT near Huxley during Derecho cleanup and will be reimbursed. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Amended Easement Agreement With Iowa State University For The Tedesco Connector Trail. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Cox noted this amendment is requested by the university and documents the adjustments made during construction. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of Change Order No. 02 Between Howrey Construction, Inc And Story County Conservation For The Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor Bid Package #3-Trail Extension For The Decreased Amount Of \$21,428.75. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Change Order No. 03 Between Howrey Construction, Inc And Story County Conservation For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Phase 1 Paving Project From R-38 To 265th Avenue In A Net Of \$0. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Change Order No. 02 Between Howrey Construction, Inc And Story County Conservation For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Phase 2 Paving Project From Huxley To The South Skunk River Bridge In The Decreased Amount Of \$3,900.00. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Pease commented that he is thankful that we had an engineer on this project and that they noticed the error. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of Change Order No. 03 Between Howrey Construction, Inc And Story County Conservation For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Phase 2 Paving Project From Huxley To The South Skunk River Bridge In The Increased Amount Of \$630.35. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- H. Resolution No. 2021-04 Resolution Endorsing A Grant Application To The CIRTPA Transportation Alternatives Program For Hard Surfacing/Trail Improvements On The

Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail From The South Skunk River Scenic Bridge To 610th Avenue. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Franz indicated that she is glad that we are planning ahead for these grants. This will continue the trail east from where the pavement currently ends. Even though this is a FY25 grant, we do not have to wait on construction. If awarded, we can request the funding to be forwarded. MCU.

- I. Consideration Of Contract With Tree Hugger Tree Care For Removal Of Hanging Limbs For \$13,420.00. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. Franz noted that this is a good price for the number of trees that we are having them work on. MCU.
- J. Consideration Of Cooperative Agreement Between Story County Conservation And Prairie Rivers Of Iowa RC And D. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Pease questioned the wording in the memo indicating the agreement is for service and the purchase of water quality monitoring kits, but the agreement is only for their services. Cox apologized for the error and clarified that we have funds allocated in our budget for the purchase of the kits. Meyers suggested that we make the correction on the memo to the Board of Supervisors. MCU.
- K. Consideration Of 2021 Legislative Priorities. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. Pease suggested that we move away from using IWILL and referencing the Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Trust Fund. He also suggested we mention reviewing or updating the Master Matrix with ISAC. MCU with suggested updates.

15. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Discussion And Consideration Of Hiring Freeze Exemption Request For Administrative Assistant II Position. Cox indicated that Elizabeth's last day is January 15th. Board members thanked her for her service. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

16. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the Feasibility Study for sustainable local funding and the timing of presenting to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. We have potential to do some oxbow restorations at the Wicks and Osheim properties. We have some firms working on conceptual design The City of Ames and Prairie Rivers of Iowa are interested in helping fund these projects. There is a small parcel of land adjacent to the Osheim property and the owner may be interested in continuing the restoration work on their property. The Dotson property has been finalized and we are now the owners. We will receive more property as the project develops in phases. Currently, we have about 70 acres. We started a new program called "Nature Connect". This is a funding mechanism through MICA to provide a discount on our programs, facilities, and services for lower income families. The FY22 budget work session with the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for 9:00AM on Friday, January 22nd. Board members can attend via Zoom. A draft agreement with the City of Colo has been sent to Iowa Regional Water Utility Association for their feedback before presenting to Colo. We received the archology study on the US Army Corps of Engineers property and are trying to get a meeting set up.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Laumer praised the staff for their online work on Facebook and Instagram which has been fantastic. She hopes that this information will help the programs to be well attended. Franz indicated that a small business owner in Ames used one of our videos in their shop promoting the outdoors. She hiked at McFarland a couple times and asked why the trail was not cleared

of snow. We do not clear off the trails here at McFarland for users that want to snowshoe and cross-country skiing. The trails at TELC are cleared and available for assessable use. She was excited to see the update of the staff photos on the conservation website. She has had conversations with Director Cox regarding planning and we decided this is not the year to do a comprehensive three-year strategic plan, but we will do a one-year readjustment. She also mentioned that we are beginning to work on planning for the ICCS Conference in September. Pease mentioned that he is in the process of reviewing the draft of the water quality monitoring plan from Prairie Rivers of Iowa. It is quite comprehensive and he thinks that it's going to be a great document to present to the Board of Supervisors. Laumer wanted to know what are plan is for summer camps. Director Cox indicated that at this time, we are planning to move forward with the camps as normal and will continue to be responsive to current situations and make changes as needed.

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.



Recording Secretary



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