

Story County Conservation Board  
March 8, 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: 5:30 PM
3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Craig Meyers – present	Mike Cox	Dan Haug
Christine Laumer – present	Marianne Harrelson	Penny Brown Huber
Nancy Franz – present	Ryan Wiemold	Cindy Hildebrand
Jim Pease - present	Jerry Keys	
Ted Tedesco – present	Heather Hucka	
Linda Murken – present		
4. STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE SECTION 21.8.1
5. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Haug with Prairie Rivers of Iowa presented information regarding the Story County Water Quality Monitoring Plan. Story County, the Cities of Ames, Nevada, Gilbert and Huxley, Story County Soil & Water Conservation District, Story County Community Foundation, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the Izaak Walton League of America were all part of the planning team. The purpose of this plan is to collect and analyze water sampling data, to increase residents’ knowledge and understandings and identify problems in our watersheds, to support and improve water quality. Dan reviewed the accomplishments in 2020, the goals for the next 10 years, and what will be done with the data once it is received.
7. STAFF REPORT – Ryan Wiemold, Park Superintendent submitted a written annual report. He reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.
8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
February 8, 2021. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. MCU.
9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS  
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.
10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – Staff is working on completing budgeted projects before the end of the fiscal year.
11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS  
The next board meeting is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 12. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Action Forms - Environmental Education Coordinator pay adjustment effective 4/11/21, Jerry Keys @ \$2,681.19/bw. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- B. Consideration Of Conservation Center Use And Indoor Programming Management Protocols: COVID-19. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. Meyers indicated that one of the links in the document does not work. Keys indicated that the State of Iowa continually changes the links; he will check the link and get it fixed. Keys also noted that naturalists will be getting their COVID-19 vaccinations before summer camps start. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Amended Easement Agreements With The Iowa State University Foundation For The Tedesco Connector Trail. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of Contract Between Ernie Gummo And Story County Conservation Board For Campground Attendant Duties At Dakins Lake From March 29 To July 11, 2021. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Contract Between Joseph Fullerton And Story County Conservation Board For Campground Attendant Duties At Hickory Grove Park From March 29 To October 31, 2021. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Contract Between Finch Livestock Exchange For Management Grazing In SCC Areas. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Of Revisions To Story County Conservation Rules And Regulations. MOTION by Franz with one change to page 12, section 4.25 Camping, A. Reservable Campsites, 3. Reservations must be made at least 5 days in advance of your stay, should be changed from first person, SECOND by Pease. Pease suggested that we change page 12, section 4.22 War-Like Games to read: War-like games using weapon-type projectiles, e.g. paintballs, are not allowed on SCC owned or managed land or water. MCU with noted changes.

## 13. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Review Updated Strategic Plan – Cox explained that staff reviewed the plan as units and then answered survey questions individually. Board members were asked to do the same. All of the changes submitted were merged into one updated document. Once these revisions have been accepted, and if any changes are suggested from this meeting, a final draft will be presented and next month's board meeting. Franz gave some explanation of items changed and removed from the original plan.

## 14. UPDATES

- A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on working with Polk County's Watershed Coordinator on a program to encourage more saturated buffer, bioreactor and edge of field practices. They have had a lot of success with this program and would like us to implement a similar plan. There will be more discussion about possibly implementing a program in the future. We have been working on getting the Headwaters of the South Skunk River WMA grant contract approved. The RFP for a consultant is out right now. The due

date for those is March 19<sup>th</sup>. We have scheduled the Hickory Grove Park celebration for August 28<sup>th</sup>. We have started a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee. We are working with the College of Business Master's Program to assist. They will be contacting staff and board members with questions about DEI and what you are observing. The end of this fiscal year is the end of the current bargaining contract. We negotiated a new three-year contract and it has been accepted by the Union. The Union asked for wage increases based on market. We reviewed comparable wages with ten other Iowa counties and determined that our salaries are low. The agreement calls for a market-based realignment with salaries during the first year and then two percent increases the next two years.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz has been attending the ICCS conference monthly meetings. Things are moving forward with the same agenda as last year except the theme is 2020+1 and the 65+1 anniversary. She is participating in the Environmental Literature Club and three other environmental education programs and has been impressed by the way staff is using Zoom. She attended the Outdoor Alliance of Story County annual meeting. They had a great presentation on water quality. She is also attending the City of Ames Eco Chats. She has been taking some people out to the new trail around Hickory Grove Lake. Pease has been involved with the edge of field committee and has been attending many webinars put on by the Iowa Learning Farms. He has been involved nationally with the Izaak Walton League Ag committee on legislation and the state level legislation. He has been reviewing the preliminary draft of the Water Quality Monitoring Plan and the Sensitive Areas Inventory. Meyers has also been attending the edge of field meetings. He likes the concept and is trying to learn more about what the practices are and how they can be implemented.

#### 15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.



Recording Secretary



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