

Story County Conservation Board  
May 10, 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	Diane Birt
Christine Laumer – present	Marianne Harrelson	Cameron Lynch
Nancy Franz – absent	Brandon Clough	
Jim Pease – present		
Ted Tedesco – present		
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 – Diane Birt, with the Outdoor Alliance of Story County, updated the board on some of the projects they have been involved with and projects that they have partnered with SCC on.
7. STAFF REPORT – Brandon Clough, Natural Resource Specialist, submitted a written annual report. He reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.
8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
April 12, 2021. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS  
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.
10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – Director Cox noted the report showing the FY21 budget amendments that have been submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS  
The next board meeting is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. Director Cox reminded the board about the supporter’s event on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at TELC, and the Hickory Grove grand reopening on July 10<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Colo Crossroads.
12. ACTION ITEMS:
  - A. Action Forms – Summer new hires effective 5/11/21, Kaleb Ruffcorn, Conservation Aide @ \$11.75/hr.; Pay adjustment effective 5/23/21, Michael Cox @ \$3,954.57/bw.; Pay

adjustment effective 6/6/21, Ryan Wiemold @ \$2,896.60/bw and Joseph Kooiker @ \$2,412.18/bw. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

- B. Consider Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Story County Iowa Conservation Board And Public, Professional, And Maintenance Employees Local 2003 (Conservation Unit). MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. This is a three-year contract. A market analysis was conducted and this contract represents the wage adjustments needed for us to match other like sized counties. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of Contract With Shive-Hattery For \$88,050.00 For McFarland Lake Restoration Design Services. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Four firms submitted proposals and Shive-Hattery scored the highest. The cost was over what we had budgeted but was true across the board on the proposals. The additional funds needed can come out of the Trust Fund. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of An Amendment To Agreement Between Shive-Hattery And Story County Conservation For The Praeri Rail Trail Paving Project In Zearing For An Additional \$5,000. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Due to several delays by the contractor, Shive-Hattery incurred additional costs on this project and they have agreed to share the additional cost burden with SCC. MCU.
- E. Resolution No. 2021-05 Resolution Endorsing A Grant Application To The COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails Program For Hard Surfacing/Trail Improvements On The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail From The South Skunk River Scenic Bridge To County Road S-14. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. The state received money through the stimulus package and is allocating \$5M towards trail projects. The grant strongly encourages a cash match but it is not required. Cox indicated that we have funds available for a match. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Memorial Bench For Richard And Sharon Hunter At Hickory Grove Park. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco. This will be a standard black metal bench like the ones we have been installing in all the parks (other than TELC). MCU.
- G. Consideration Of A Memorial Bench To Be Installed At TELC. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. This will be a walnut bench like the others at TELC. MCU.
- H. Consideration Of Updates To The Story County Conservation Safety And Health Management Policy. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. The policy has been updated to include the panic alarm procedures and the fire escape and severe weather plans for all SCC buildings. MCU.

### 13. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board that he put in a request to Congressman Feenstra for HOINT trail paving and Feenstra has decided not to move any funding requests forward. He asked the board how they would like to continue the board meetings in the future, via Zoom or in person. The board decided that they would like to meet in person, but see if we can still provide a Zoom link for the public. We are still waiting on IRUA's attorney to move forward with the Colo sewer connection. We are also considering putting a vault in at the dump station at Hickory as an option. The Story County water quality group is meeting and getting other communities involved. Jerry Keys is getting more volunteers to do

testing and Dan at Prairie Rivers is working to get the lab analysis done. The Headwaters WMA approved a contract with JEO to complete a watershed assessment. A kickoff meeting is being scheduled to get the technical team, WMA members, and JEO together to discuss the start of the project. The watershed position is posted and applications are due by May 18<sup>th</sup>. We would like to have this position filled and start by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Pease and Director Cox met with the Ames mayor regarding trails connecting the whole county. He attended the dedication of the lowhead dam mitigation project at South River Valley Park. The City of Ames received recognition as "River Town of the Year" from the Iowa Rivers Revival at the dedication. Tedesco let Director Cox know that one of the delineator poles at TELC needs to be replaced and some of the filter pave near The Nest needs to be repaired. He asked for an update on the Corps of Engineers and the INHF/Deppe property. Cox indicated that we just got approval from the state archeologist on the areas that we need easements. Once the easements are approved, the Corps is ready to move forward. INHF will have an article in their next newsletter about the Deppe property. We have contractor coming in June to demolish the house and two of the buildings. Laumer is trying to set up a meeting with Fuel Story County, which is a young professionals/young leaders' organization and they provide their members volunteer opportunities and they also do fundraising for nonprofits. She is happy to see that we are collecting the old cell phones for recycling. She hopes that we can find more ways to help the community with other ways to fill in those types of knowledge gaps. Murken mentioned the Headwaters WMA meeting is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> and that Story County is asking all residents to participate in the broadband survey. This will help the county determine where the need is for better broadband service. Meyers has been hiking the trails at Hickory Grove and he is looking forward to the progress with saturated buffers being deployed in the county. Cox indicated that he is still working on getting review and coordination for potential implementation of this program.

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.



Recording Secretary



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