

Story County Conservation Board
June 14, 2021
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa and via Zoom

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: This Meeting Is Also Being Offered Via Zoom.
2. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM
3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Craig Meyers – present	Mike Cox	Mike Meetz
Christine Laumer – absent	Marianne Harrelson	Emily Brinkman
Nancy Franz – present	Pat Shehan	
Jim Pease – present		
Ted Tedesco – present		
Linda Murken – present		
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mike Meetz mentioned that he has been interviewing Erica Place, SCC Outreach Coordinator, about every six weeks on KHOI radio regarding updates on Story County Conservation projects and programs.
6. STAFF REPORT – Pat Shehan, Special Projects Ranger, submitted a written annual report. He reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 10, 2021. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. MCU.
8. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.
9. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – Pease asked how much excess we were going to end up with. Cox indicated that we are going to end up lapsing more this year than in prior years. There will be two more claim cycles that will be expensed in this FY.
10. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
The next board meeting is scheduled for July 12th and will be held in person at McFarland Conservation Center. Meyers pointed out the July 10th Hickory Grove Park Grand Reopening and Colo Crossroads Festival.
11. ACTION ITEMS:
 - A. Consideration Of Resolution #2021-06 Approving FY22 Salaries For Story County Conservation Employees. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
 - B. Action Forms – Step and Longevity Adjustments for FY22
effective 7/4/21, Brandon Clough @ \$23.79/hr.; effective 7/18/21, Tyler Kelley @ \$22.15/hr.; effective 8/15/21, Rebekah Beall Warburton @ \$24.08/hr.; effective 8/29/21,

Heather Hucka @ \$25.63/hr.; effective 9/26/21, Erica Place @ \$21.86/hr., Elizabeth Waage @ \$24.07/hr., Jacob Smith @ \$19.85/hr., Hunter Simmons @ \$19.85/hr.; effective 10/10/21, Russ DeWall @ \$23.78/hr.; effective 12/19/21, Dillion Schmidt @ \$19.825/hr.; effective 2/13/22, Joseph Hill @ \$23.15/hr.; effective 3/13/22, Marianne Harrelson @ \$26.46/hr., Lucas Feilmeier @ \$28.39/hr.; effective 3/27/22, Brittany Ridgway @ \$19.02/hr.; effective 5/22/22, Jessica Lancial @ \$24.59/hr., Patrick Shehan @ \$28.93/hr., Derek Seward @ \$21.50/hr. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. Harrelson noted an error on Dillion Schmidt's rate, it should be \$19.85. MCU.

- C. Consideration Of Eliminating The Face Covering Policy For Employees And Implementing CDC Guidance On Wearing Masks As A Response To The COVID-19 Pandemic. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of Updated Conservation Center Use And Indoor Programming Management Protocols: COVID-19. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. Cox indicated that we are now below 3% and are able to allow rentals of the Multipurpose Room. MCU.
- E. Resolution No. 2021-07 Resolution Endorsing A Grant Application To The State Recreational Trails 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 Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

12. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board that the IRUA's attorney, project managers, and CEO are working on the documents to move forward with the Colo sewer connection. He indicated that Nancy has been diligently working on the ICCS conference planning and we need quite a few people to help out in different areas of the conference. He asked board members to try to get more silent auction items for the conference. He continues to have discussions with the City of Ames regarding the edge of field practices. They seem to be very supportive and are willing to be the fiscal agent. Since this is a non-point source practice and eligible for state revolving fund, this may be eligible for APR stimulus funds. Some other potential uses for this funding might be the HGP sewer. Staff and volunteers are conducting water testing at nineteen sites throughout the county. We have restarted testing for e-coli at Hickory Grove and West Peterson. We are monitoring water quality at Hickory, Dakins, and McFarland lakes. We have a conditional offer out to a Watershed Coordinator position candidate whom has accepted contingent on pre-employment screenings. Our law enforcement officers have had a difficult year so far. The attitudes of many people are not positive and they seem to be testing the limits. There are more people in the parks, that may not have used the parks before, and may not know or understand the rules in the parks. It was suggested that we come up with some "park etiquette" and get the word out to the public in different ways. The board would like to continue to find ways to relieve some of the stresses that our law enforcement officers are encountering. The house and buildings on the Deppe property have been taken down. The concrete left on site may be reused on another project. We are trying to get a firm lined up to assist us with a conceptual design for what we want to do at this property. We have been working with the DNR on some flood plain land protection and they have applied for a second round of WREP federal funding. A NAWCA grant was also applied for and both were awarded. Thus, funding is available for several hundred acres. This funding will cover easements, acquisition, restoration, and residual payment.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz has been hiking at Hickory Grove Park. She told the board about Jennifer Drinkwater's, *What's Good Project*. Jennifer chooses a particular place to promote, paints a portrait of the area, and donates a portion of her sales back to the organization. Pease gave a "shout-out" to the Story County Sheriff's office for their quick response in an emergency. He recently visited the Dotson property and they have the main trunks of the roads complete, so you can get a better idea of what they are doing. He has been using this project as an example with a developer for another project in the area. Cox mentioned that there are some grading concerns, making it impossible to get gravity feed for the proposed wetland at that location. A pump will be required for the wetland. Cox will talk to IDALS to see if they will still be interested in funding this project with a pumped system. With the ongoing maintenance of a pumped system, Cox has asked the city to consider solar power for the pump. Tedesco noted the aquatic growth at Dakins Lake and thanked the staff for all of their efforts to keep our parks beautiful. Meyers has hiking/walking at Hickory Grove and TELC. The parks look great. He thanked everyone for coming and helping out at the supporter's appreciation event. Murken gave a brief update on the Headwaters WMA members.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Recording Secretary



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