

Story County Conservation Board
October 25, 2021
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: This Meeting Is Also Being Offered Via Conference Call.

2. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Jim Pease – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Ryan Wiemold

Jake Smit

GUESTS

Amelia Schoeneman

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 13, 2021 and September 22, 2021. MOTION for both minutes by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

9. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 8th.

10. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consideration Of Temporary Construction Easement And Permanent Access Easement With Robert And Kristin Hart. MOTION to approve this and the following (Action Item B) together by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Cox explained that these easements are for work south of Peterson Park. This project will stabilize an important part of the river that has seen an incredible amount of soil loss. This easement is required for Action Item C. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Temporary Construction Easement With The Chadwick Raymond Trust. MOTION and SECOND with above (Action Item A)

C. Consideration Of Contract With Keith Cooper And Sons For \$27,500 For A Streambank Restoration Project Along The Skunk River. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. The Hart's completed the preliminary stages of this project last year and have contributed

a significant amount of funding for this project. Funding for this contract will come from the IA DNR and from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). MCU.

- D. Consideration Of Contract With Halls Excavating And Trenching For Campground Improvements At Dakins Lake Primitive Campground For \$47,689.92. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Franz. This is a budgeted improvement at the original Dakins Lake Campground. Users enjoy camping in the original campground, but some of the larger units have problems fitting in the sites. There are currently water and drainage issues because of the sites being too close together. We are proposing to spread the sites out and make them pull-through by extending the road, angling the sites and regrading the area to eliminate the drainage issues. Electrical and water utilities will be moved to accommodate these changes. We will propose a name change of the campground in the future. MCU.

- E. Consideration Of Restructure Of Story County Conservation Field Staff: Adding A New Job Classification – Operations Supervisor, Revising One Current Job Classification – Park Ranger, And Increasing Fulltime Equivalent By One. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. We have had discussions over the past several years regarding the need to restructure the field staff and feel that now is the time to make these changes. We believe that this new structure will provide better service and balance workloads. It will also aide in staff retention - minimizing staff turnover, and offer better opportunities for staff to advance in their career. Board members offered suggestions to add to the proposal to the Board of Supervisors, like increased parks/trail usage statistics, increased law enforcement needs, additional property acquisition, staff turnover, project delays, etc. Difficulties with current staffing needs/issues, effectiveness, efficiencies, law enforcement issues, etc. need to be emphasized to the BOS. The salary information that we provide to the BOS needs to include benefits and other indirect costs. We believe that this structure change would help with education and volunteer programs as well. The current staffing structure is no longer working for our organization and we need to make these changes now to move forward. MCU.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Update On Deppe Property From RDG. RDG provided a written update of their progress on the Deppe property management plan. Cox and board members reviewed the updates and discussed some items that need to be addressed before they proceed with their next steps.

- B. Update On Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment To Natural Resource Standards. Amelia Schoeneman, Story County Planning and Development Director, provided a copy of the proposed Natural Resource Ordinance update. She reviewed items that need updated in the ordinance and requested the SCC board to provide comments, suggestions, additions, changes, etc. that they feel needs to be updated. Agriculture land is exempt from these ordinances or any zoning requirements. If the ag land is being converted into a development, then the ordinance will apply. Amelia will bring the ordinance back to the board to review before it is submitted for approval.

12. UPDATES

- A. General Updates: Director Cox reminded the board about the upcoming REAP meeting. We received 49 applications for the Naturalist positions. The ICCS conference is projected to make a profit of \$37,000 which is the largest profit in the history of the conference. This

is due to volunteers and staff raising sponsorships. Conservation requested ARPA funding for seven projects and three have been approved by the BOS so far. He has some more discussion with the carbon dioxide pipeline project staff. They are proposing to go under the PRT and near Carroll Prairie. He told the pipeline company that he is not giving them permission to access Carroll Prairie. He and other board members met with Rick Sanders to discuss the potential TELC phase 4 improvement project. Rick will be meeting with Workiva to discuss options. Cox, Shehan, and Murken attended the City of Ames' work session regarding their bicycle and pedestrian plan. Staff is preparing the FY23 budget for the boards review at the next board meeting.

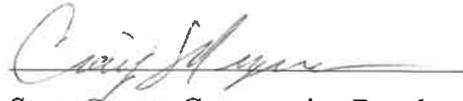
B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz taught a hiking workshop at Wild Women of the Woods. She has been taking the ISU Women's Club hiking at West Peterson and Hickory Grove Park. She attended one of the IA Trails Summit sessions on inclusive trails. She attended the first meeting of the City of Ames, Climate Action Plan committee. She suggested that we look at our relationship with our current marketing vendor. There have been several issues that have come up with items ordered for the ICCS Conference and Wild Women of the Woods. Tedesco has been conducting tours with Jerry at TELC and wanted to let staff know about some paint peeling on the containers.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.



Recording Secretary



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