

Story County Conservation Board
December 6, 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: 5:32 PM

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – absent

Jim Pease – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Linda Murken – present via phone

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

GUESTS

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 8, 2021. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. 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 January 10th.

10. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Action Form – Naturalist new hire effective 1/3/22, Bobbi Donovan @ \$21.63/hr.

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. Cox provided some information about Bobbi's experience and history. MCU.

B. Approve Story County Conservation Board Meeting Dates For 2022. MOTION by

Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Pease requested that the March meeting date be changed to March 7th. MCU.

C. Consideration Of Charging A \$3.00 On-Line Camping Reservation Fee. MOTION by

Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. Cox noted that we have been absorbing the cost of the credit card processing fees. With the amount of reservations being placed we are losing a significant amount of revenue due to these fees. MCU.

- D. Consideration Of Contract With Ricken Tiling And Excavating For Beach And Trail Improvements At West Peterson Park For \$58,360.00. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. Pease had some questions about the concrete blocks on the quote. Cox explained that these are very large blocks and will be used to build a terrace between the beach and an area to be developed into a picnic area. They will also be creating a concrete path along the parking area and between the parking area and the beach. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Cooperative Agreement Between Story County Conservation And Prairie Rivers Of Iowa RC And D. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco. This contract will be the third year with PRI. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Purchase Of Donor Recognition Item For Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor From Art Partners For \$11,427.00. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Cox provided a design concept for the board to view. Donation levels to be included come from our donor recognition plan. The display will be placed near the gathering area. MCU.
- G. Consideration Of Proposal From TW Training For Consulting Services (Unbudgeted). MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. Cox explained that Terry will meet with staff individually and provide an analysis of the results and training suggestions. MCU.
- H. Approve Story County Conservation FY21 Annual Report. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. Meyers noted a typographical error on page 11. Pease noted a correction on the introduction letter. MCU.
- I. Approve FY23 Conservation And IRVM Budget Proposals. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Cox noted that updates have been made from the November discussion. Our tax asking for this FY is significantly higher the previous couple years, but is only 100K more than FY20 budget request. Capital projects are the largest costs of the budget. Cox reviewed some of the larger changes and noted that the Board of Supervisors has not approved the ARPA funding, so some of the items that we have budgeted may be removed depending on that approval. Cox and Harrelson answered questions from the board. Harrelson also noted an update to the IRVM budget for fuel costs. MCU.
- J. Approve Story County Conservation FY23 Capital Improvement Project Plan. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. Cox indicated that he added some items in for future carbon improvements and pushed some other projects out a few years. Cox answered questions from the board. MCU.

11. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox thanked the board for their support with the Board of Supervisors on the staff realignment. Job openings are already posted for the Park Ranger positions and have been posted internally for the Operations Supervisors and Conservation Technician II positions. The Iowa DNR is looking for REAP Congress Delegates. REAP Congress is on January 8th. The West Peterson Park streambank stabilization project is complete. We started a DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) review with an ISU student group. They performed an assessment and gave us some recommendations. The DEI committee has not moved forward with the recommendations yet but will review the findings from the ISU assessment and coordinate further efforts with a countywide DEI effort. One of

our staff members had a concern with their work environment and an investigation took place with Human Resources and the County Attorney's office. At the conclusion of the investigation, there was no disciplinary action, but they did recommend some additional training.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Laumer noted that the Deppe Steering Committee met last week and a tentative public input meeting is scheduled for January 6th at 6 PM. An online survey will be sent out after this meeting. Pease has been involved in several discussions on the Hannum's Mill project. Meyers has been meeting with the Outdoor Alliance of Story County and was able to get them a report that they were very pleased with. He has had several discussions with them about what they want in a report and they are in the process of creating some framework for the type of information they will be seeking for their donations.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.



Recording Secretary



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