

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, October 8, 2012
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

39664384. Vice Chair Tedesco called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease – absent

Ted Tedesco – present

Joyce Hornstein – present

Sandy Opstvedt – present – arrived at 7:05 pm

Allen Weber – present

Wayne Clinton - present (ex-officio)

STAFF

Mike Cox

Melissa Johannes

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

Linda Meetz

Leanne Harter

39664385. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Vice Chair Tedesco welcomed and introduced the guests.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Tedesco noted supplemental packet materials, including the 2011 Annual Report. Tedesco moved the presentation from Leanne Harter (agenda item #13) up on the agenda immediately following item #7.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2012 meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

Hornstein questioned the Operation Releaf expenses wondering if expenses would be reimbursed. Weber questioned if the school fees were received at the beginning of the year or quarterly.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve all claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

One correction to the financial reports was noted. Under the capital accounts Dakins Lake Playground shows nothing spent due to a calculation error. The correct information should be 100 percent used, and total percent used should be 9 percent.

8. LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING: TILLABLE LANDS PROJECT

Leanne Harter was present with information on the Tillable Lands Project. The Grow Story County Committee was adopted by Resolution 11-23 as an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee was established to address food system issues in the County and outline specific policy changes and implementation measures to be considered by the Board. The committee mapped County owned tillable land and has been looking at the possibility of utilizing some of this land to lease for local food and farm production. Out of the properties there were thirty seven properties with a little over one thousand acres of land available. There presently are no minimum sizes of land they will consider. They are reviewing land management plans and land evaluation soil analysis. They are looking at setting up community gardens and private farm land, not industrial farms. The Strategic

plan is available. Opstvedt asked if they are looking at short term vegetable crops or longer term vineyards. Harter stated both. Hornstein didn't think there would be usable land for growing vegetables and suggested working with ISU Horticulture. Clinton wanted to know proximity to schools. Harter stated they are looking at all land, water availability, and access. Opstvedt asked what negatives there are, and Harter did not find any. Tedesco asked if public input would be sought, and asked to be put on notice. Clinton said the Board needs a better idea of where things are going before they would open it up for public input. Tedesco and Cox thanked Harter for her time.

39664386. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tedesco reviewed the upcoming events and asked about the Halloween Hike. The November Conservation Board meeting will begin at 5:30 pm.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

There have not been any communications to report.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz stated there is still time to put in nominations for the annual Olav Smedal Conservation Award. Nominations are being accepted until October 26th, with only two nominations submitted to date. Mike also commented that he thinks the Growing Story County, Tillable Land Project is a great idea. He told the Board about the Sawyer School community garden and the positive impact on the community. He stated only 3/10 of a percent of land is held in conservation. We are ranked 48th or 49th in the United States with the fewest amounts of acres in conservation.

12. APPROVE FY11 ANNUAL REPORT

MOTION by Opstvedt, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve the FY11 Annual Report. MCU.

13. APPROVE FIRST READING OF REVISIONS TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION PERSONNEL POLICY – CELL PHONE POLICY

MOTION by Opstvedt, SECOND by Weber, to approve the First Reading of the Revision to the Story County Conservation Personnel Policy / Cell Phone Policy. MCU.

14. GENERAL UPDATES

The Director updated the Board on recent events. The Fall Partners Festival was yesterday. ~~W~~

15. IOWA ASSOC. OF COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARDS UPDATE

Hornstein has left the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board. The new person is Mike Bandrup from Hamilton County. The IACCB Fall Conference was successful. Typically one or two counties take charge, this year ten counties managed the meeting. Hornstein went to the IWILL (Iowa's Water and Land Legacy) meeting on September 28 and 29. They have passed a constitutional amendment to that the next time the tax goes up, 3/8 of the next cents will go to conservation. Polk County bond issue will have a Land Legacy bond trying to raise fifty million dollars over the next twenty years. The speakers suggested Story County do something similar to secure bond money. Vilsack came for the luncheon and farm bill discussion. Shane Mahoney came and discussed conservation. The conference was not well attended. Tedesco said they have discussed water and land legacy bonds before, but our out per household would be significantly more since our number of people is less. Johnson County has a bond for twenty-five million over twenty years.

16. OTHER

Reminder the November Conservation Board meeting will be November 20 at 5:30 pm.

39664387. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Weber, to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board