

Story County Conservation Board
April 22, 2013
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

73424000. Chair J. Pease called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present

Ted Tedesco – absent

Joyce Hornstein – present

Allen Weber – present

Wayne Clinton – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

Carol Williams

GUESTS

Stephen & Will Owen

James & Ayden Dooley

Brent, Missy, & Zach Larson

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Stephen Owen, leader of Cub Scout Pack 128, introduced pack members and their parents. As a way of saying thank you to the board for providing such wonderful places for the scouts to enjoy activities and learn about the outdoors, the scouts made two recycling bins for use at Hickory Grove Park. It is hoped that these designated containers will reduce litter and encourage recycling of beverage cans. Owen added that, in addition to being a service project for the park, the ten scouts involved will earn a citizenship badge. The board gratefully accepted the containers and thanked the scouts for their donation.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

There were no additional handouts or comments on the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2013 board meeting. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hornstein stated the adjournment time of 5:45 p.m. should be 5:25 p.m.

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2013 board meeting with the correction noted. MCU.

8. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox reported that the Conservation and IRVM departments will meet budget, but funds will be tight the remainder of this fiscal year. Unspent funds in the conservation reserve account will carry forward to next year, and paperwork should be completed for final expenditures and reimbursement on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail project.

10. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The chair noted several upcoming meetings and events. Pease expressed his appreciation to the board for being flexible in adjusting several meeting dates.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

Pease will meet with Cox following tonight's meeting to go over his evaluation.

Joe McGovern (former Story County Conservation employee) is the new president of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation effective May 1. Pease shared that Rich Leopold will be the assistant director for Polk County Conservation.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None additional.

13. APPROVE SECOND READINGS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Weber, to approve second readings of proposed revisions to Story County

14. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT CONTRACT

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein, to recommend approval of campground attendant contract between Story County Conservation and Pamela Pritchett. MCU.

15. APPROVE FINAL PLANS FOR DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT

Cox noted printed building plans and park specifications available for review. In giving an overview

Remarking that the project has been a team effort, Williams outlined steps of the project from hold

Cox reviewed the dam design, displayed a list of the permits required for the project, and explained with a tentative bid opening date of May 28, 2013. If the project follows this schedule, substantial earthwork wo

Board members discussed convening a special meeting after bids are opened. The board set a tentative

Cox said a groundbreaking ceremony could occur in June or July. He added that the board will also need to mak

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Weber, to approve final plans and tentative schedule for the Dakins Lake Expansion Project. MCU.

The board thanked Cox and Williams for all their hard work on the project.

16. SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Special Projects Ranger Carol Williams remarked that a fair amount of her time the last year was activities/tasks:

- The *Partners* Advisory Committee continues to meet every two months. The committee is small and thinking about how they might expand. *Partners* funds several projects each year; in FY13 they awarded money for the OnCell program, GPS units, and Conservation Corps Iowa work at Robison Wildlife Acres. The number of *Partners* memberships remains fairly steady from year to year.

- Spring and fall festivals continue, with the upcoming spring festival on May 5. Williams recognized the naturalists for their help in planning activities for this event. If board members would like to volunteer, they should contact Tiffany Cornelius. A \$750 grant was received from the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau towards this year's festivals.
- Outreach Coordinator Cornelius undertook the annual *Partners* photo contest, and Williams remarked that she did a great job! Winners were recently selected, and Cornelius posted contest photos on Facebook, which was well received.
- The fifth annual Trek the Trails race was held in February. A \$610 grant was received from Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau for this event as well. Participation did not increase this year, and the event is being re-evaluated for next year. Williams acknowledged event organizers Scott Vance and Joli Vollers for their involvement.
- The Country Club bike lanes south of Nevada were constructed summer, and the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail project should close out by the end of this fiscal year. Williams attends Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable meetings and High Trestle Trail meetings.
- Story County Trails Advisory Committee has had increased participation from a new mountain bike group in Ames. Six TEAM days were held since April 2012 with 73 volunteers helping improve SCC trails.
- Public meetings were held, sign plans developed and ordered, and five kiosks created for the Skunk River Water Trail and designating the Skunk River as a water trail. Signs and kiosks will be installed this spring.
- Dedication ceremonies were planned and held for Hertz Family Woods and Nature Preserve (May 2012) and the Lekwa Access (June 2012).
- Field work – The log jam south of Anderson Access was improved, a portage around Hannum's Mill dam was completed, the take-out and launch site at River Valley Park was improved, and wayfinding signs along highway were ordered. A special thanks goes to the Iowa DNR Water Trails Program for their assistance on these projects.
- The remainder of time was spent on law enforcement duties, creating maps for brochures, grant writing, and working on management plans.

Board members thanked Williams for her presentation and for working toward an additional grant of \$175,000 for Dakins Lake.

17. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox gave these updates:

- The confinement issue from last year will be re-surfacing. Cox, Pease, Supervisor Sanders, and Assistant County Attorney Reynolds will be meeting with the Mens family and their legal counsel to discuss their plans.
- A work session was held last week with elected officials and department heads to identify, set, and prioritize goals for the county. Cox was pleased that many of Conservation's concerns were carried forward in the plan, which will be considered for adoption by the board of supervisors at a future date. Cox will keep the board posted.
- A lawsuit was filed against the company that worked on the waterline repair project in 2008. The company's attorney has contacted Story County about completing needed repair work. Cox has prepared a list of settlement fees, and Story County is waiting for a response re: these settlement charges.
- Supervisor Wayne Clinton advised via email that the board of supervisors must wait until May 6 to appoint a member to the conservation board for its vacant seat.

- Staff met with Ron Munkel and Bill Bunger, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, regarding goose problems at Hickory Grove. Several suggestions were given to keep the geese away from the beach and reduce the number of birds in that area, including clearing trees from the island to reduce nesting pairs and reinstating a controlled hunt.
- The Hickory Grove Watershed Management Action plan has been approved by the Iowa DNR. The plan identifies three primary causes affecting water quality in the watershed: septic systems, livestock, and in-park sedimentation. Cox reported that some progress is being in each of these areas.
- The annual report for Prairie Rivers RC&D was distributed. Cox is Story County's representative and is currently working with Prairie Rivers RC&D on the Lincoln Highway Bi-way Project to develop educational opportunities for grade school students. A youth conservation expo is planned this fall at the farm progress show grounds, and Cox said SCC will have some presence there.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein, that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board