

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, June 10, 2013
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair J. Pease called the meeting to order at 7:03.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present
Ted Tedesco – present
Joyce Hornstein – absent
Allen Weber – present
Craig Meyers - absent
Wayne Clinton – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox
Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chair Pease welcomed Mike Meetz, interested Nevada citizen, to the meeting.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

The chair noted additional claims and the May staff report.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2013 board meeting. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

Director Cox reported that quotes were received from three companies for two furnaces and two air conditioners/heat pumps needing replacement at the conservation center. Converse Air submitted the low bid, installing two furnaces and two heat pumps. Midland Electric will bill at a lower kilowatt rate for the heat pumps and will also give SCC a \$1,050 rebate.

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox estimated that about \$28,000 in the FY13 Conservation expense budget will be turned in at the end of the year.

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Pease noted evening prairie walks at Doolittle Prairie and a moonlight paddle program at Hickory Grove. Cox announced that bids for the Dakins Lake expansion project will be opened at the board of supervisors meeting on July 9. Board members agreed to re-schedule the July 8 meeting to July 15 at 7:00 p.m. to review the bids and make recommendations to the board of supervisors for approval at their July 16 meeting.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Pease shared information on “Pack the Lake” at Ada Hayden Heritage Park on June 23. Many family-friendly activities will be offered, with proceeds to go towards interpretive signs at the park. Pease asked that SCC publicize this information via Facebook and on the Story County website. Pease also reported that he received word that a planned hog confinement in the Hickory Grove Watershed is now being considered at a different location in the county.

Tedesco reported that the Ames Anglers are working on a fishing event for wounded/disabled veterans.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guest Mike Meetz commented that he enjoyed volunteering recently for environmental education programs and providing his marsh for nature camp activities.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SECOND READING OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BY-LAWS

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve a second reading of proposed revisions to Story County Conservation by-laws. MCU.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY14 COST-OF-LIVING/PAY PLAN INCREASES FOR STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFF

Director Cox commented that staff received either a 2 percent cost-of-living increase or a salary adjustment if their salaries were below the new salary range per the county’s new compensation plan.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve FY14 salaries for Story County Conservation staff.

14. OPEN BIDS FOR HICKORY GROVE WATERLINE REPAIR PROJECT

No bids were received for the project. Cox said some of the repair work may need to be done in-house or in smaller portions as contractors’ schedules permit. Cox would like to move forward on the project and will follow up by contacting contractors.

15. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF LAND IN SECTION 10 OF NEVADA TOWNSHIP

The board of supervisors was approached about an offer to buy approximately 12.5 acres, mostly right-of-way, along the Lincoln Highway east of Nevada. Cox stated that there is no legal access to the property and recommended that the county not acquire the property. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to decline the offer to purchase or accept a donation of said parcel of land. MCU.

16. CONSIDER SALE OF LAND TO THE IOWA DOT FOR RIGHT OF WAY

Cox reminded the board that a box culvert replacing the bridge at Collins will extend into the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail on the west side of Highway 65, requiring the IDOT to acquire additional right of way. The IDOT is requesting a similar transfer from Collins.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Tedesco, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that .29 acres be transferred to the Iowa Department of Transportation as requested for right of way. MCU.

17. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ENDORSING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

Cox stated that the grant application would provide funding to pave 3-5 miles of the trail between Huxley and Cambridge. Cox explained that, if awarded, there would be a neutral cost to the county with matching funds from the communities.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve Resolution No. 2013-04 endorsing a grant application to the State Recreational Trails Program for hard surfacing the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail between the cities of Huxley and Cambridge. MCU.

18. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox gave these updates:

- Recent heavy rainfall last week resulted in damage to several county areas.
- The tube at Dakins Lake was plugged with debris, which contributed to overflow of the lake, relocation of a small foot bridge, and some erosion.
- At Hickory Grove the sediment pond was plugged with cornstalks, the new riser was covered with cornstalks, and a significant amount of beach sand was lost.
- Erosion occurred on the Praeri Rail Trail, and there were cornstalks on the trail—mostly between Roland and S-14.
- Several greenbelt areas were flooded, Peterson Park was flooded between the west cell and the river, and there was some trail damage.
- Significant damage occurred on the HOINT, including erosion in several places. Sections of the trail are not passable by bike. Staff will remove debris and do some grading to make it usable for now.
- Story County was declared a disaster, and Cox toured county areas with Story County Emergency Management and FEMA staff last week. Cox added that Story County will qualify for FEMA assistance with over \$300,000 in damages estimated, but no decision has come from FEMA.
- The newly designed SCC brochure is finalized and is currently being printed. Cox complimented Outreach Coordinator Cornelius for a super job on this project and remarked that the board will be very pleased with the beautiful photos and layout of the updated brochure.
- The property purchased from Lon Strum has been named the Roland Wildlife Area.
- The family fishing program at Hickory Grove on June 8 was a fun event for children and their parents new to fishing. The minnow races were a big hit. Cox thanked staff and volunteer Tedesco for making this a successful event.

19. OTHER

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, that the meeting be adjourned.

Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board