

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, October 14, 2013  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair J. Pease called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Jim Pease – present	Mike Cox	
Ted Tedesco – present	Melissa Johannes	
Joyce Hornstein – present	Jerry Keys	
Allen Weber – present		
Craig Meyers – present		
Wayne Clinton – present		
3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Environmental Education Coordinator Jerry Keys
4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS**

The board discussed the need for a special meeting to be held in early November, with the date to be determined, in order to consider the letting of the bids for phase two of the Dakins Lake Expansion Project.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013 board meeting. MCU.
6. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS**

Chair Pease questioned what we were paying property taxes on. Director Cox explained that taxes are paid on certain lease properties as specified in the leases. MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES**

Pease asked if camping revenue was being impacted by the closing of Dakins Lake. Director Cox indicated that he didn't see a big impact.
8. **SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**

The October 12 Youth Pheasant Hunt had 8 of 11 people that signed up attend. They were happy with the turn-out. The Field Dog Trials originally scheduled for October 19 has been rescheduled to November 23. It will now be at Skunk River Flats. November 1 is the Legislators' Reception. Weber will not be able to attend.
9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Pease, Hornstein, and Meyers all attended the IACCB conference. Pease had Landowners Options books to show the board. Hornstein had brochures for next year's conference for the board members that were not able to attend this year.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Cox shared a letter from Bernadine Schaefer regarding the Dakins Lake Expansion Project as well as his response. No other public comments.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE PLAN.

Director Cox reviewed the updated capital improvement plan with the Board.

Items taken to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in the FY15 budget:

- Hickory Grove Park – sewer line project
- Prairie Rail Trail – planning for the trail extension connecting the existing trail to Dakins Lake.

Director Cox noted that the current lagoon at Hickory Grove is at its capacity; therefore additional waste would need to be moved offsite. Restrooms at Oriole Ridge and Bob White had to be removed, and cannot be replaced at this time. Tedesco's concern is the beach house restrooms which is an existing item on this plan.

Items added to the capital improvement and major maintenance plan were as follows:

- Dakins Lake – cabins, restrooms for the tent camping side, a storage building, and a water feature
- McFarland Park – sidewalk replacement, vault restroom on the west side of the park
- Hickory Grove Park – restroom replacement at Oriole Ridge Lodge and Bob White Shelter
- Heart of Iowa Nature Trail – install Central Iowa Trail signage
- Prairie Rail Trail – new trail to connect the existing trail to Dakins Lake (asked the Board of Supervisors for planning money only)
- Jennett Heritage Area – renovate pond (may be a good candidate for a fish habitat grant)
- Skunk River Greenbelt – Bear Creek Bridge replacement

Director Cox reminded the board that this was a very fluid document. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve the Ten-year Capital Improvement and Major Maintenance plan as presented. MCU

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO EXPEND REAP FUNDS UP TO \$30,000 TOWARDS OWNER PROVIDED ITEMS FOR DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT, PHSE I: These funds had previously been identified as a potential funding source. Site seeding, planting trees and shrubs, picnic tables, fire pits, and playground equipment are all to be done in house. McAninch will be turning over some of the portions of the park in the next week or two. These funds will pay for temporary and permanent seeding, and some tree planting. MOTION by Webber, SECOND by Meyers to approve spending up to \$30,000 of REAP funds on owner provided items for the Dakins Lake Expansion Project, Phase I. MCU.

13. CONSIDER DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT PHASE I CHANGE ORDERS #1 and #2 and RECOMMEND APPROVAL BY STORY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Reed canary grass removal was necessary in the waterway. A tile was discovered under the new dam. The tile was plugged with flowable concrete. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber to approve change orders #1 and #2, and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

Environmental Education Coordinator, Keys, gave a verbal report to the board as well as a handout highlighting some of the things the Environmental Education program does in addition to the classroom programs, field trips, and summer camps. The Environmental Education department checks out themed education tubs to daycares, preschools, and homeschool groups, loans out fishing poles, runs the OnCell program, has service learning programs, and holds a number of public programs. Wild Women of the Woods was a new program this year which was very successful with sixty-three participants and seventeen sessions to choose from. Another new program was a geode hunting trip to Keokuk that had twenty-two participants. The board thanked Keys for his hard work and his willingness to try new programs. They discussed interns and staffing needs. The board acknowledged that our Story County naturalists programs are some of the best in the state; several naturalists throughout Iowa either interned or worked as summer staff here.

15. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox gave a verbal report to the board.

- The Indian Creek Greenbelt Trail Extension is complete. This is 2 miles of bike lanes along 11th Street and Country Club Road south of Nevada. They will have a ribbon cutting ceremony soon.
- The conservation technician position had sixty-nine applicants, eight of which were interviewed. The board discussed where openings are advertised and the timeline from an opening until a position is filled.
- The City of Ames will be discussing the removal of the low head dam north of 13th Street. We will need to advocate for safe water trails. He will notify the board of upcoming City Council meetings. They would like to replace the dam with something similar to the riffle in Story City. Two thirds of the funding necessary has been secured.
- The Hickory Grove waterlines are being replaced. Approximately five of the lines have been replaced to date. Leaks were found as expected.
- REAP assemblies are going on now. The November 13 assembly will be held in West Des Moines.
- Tiffany Cornelius has resigned from the Outreach Coordinator position. The board stated she did a great job and will be missed.
- The Legislators Reception is on November 1. Board members will make phone calls to the persons invited. The board discussed tour options and lunch for those attending the optional tour. Touring Hickory Grove would show problems including aging infrastructure, resources at risk, concerns with hog lots, and why we need 3/8 of a cent in funding. Dakins Lake would should possible solutions, & economic development.

16. OTHER

No other comments.

MOTION to adjourn was moved by Tedesco, SECOND by Hornstein. MCU.

Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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