

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, November 18, 2013
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair J. Pease called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present
Ted Tedesco – absent
Joyce Hornstein – present
Allen Weber – present
Craig Meyers - present
Wayne Clinton – arrived 5:40

STAFF

Mike Cox
Jolene Van Waus
Jarett Cook

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chair Pease welcomed guest Mike Meetz and Jarett Cook to the meeting. Director Cox introduced Cook, the Skunk River Unit's new conservation technician. Cook's past work experience includes Mahaska County Conservation, ISU, AmeriCorps, and the IDNR. The rest of the board members welcomed Cook to Story County Conservation.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Pease noted the supplemental packet and updated budget worksheets.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hornstein noted that ICCB in #9 should be IACCB, and Weber corrected the spelling of his name in #13.

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2013 board meeting with these corrections. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

There were no questions or discussion on the financial reports.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The chair pointed out that the next board meeting is December 2 at 5:30 p.m. and also mentioned O.W.L.S. on December 2 and the re-scheduled field dog trail for November 23.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- Pease asked board members to review packets they received about Winterfest—the IACCB employee conference. Board members are welcome to attend, and Pease asked board members to contact him if they needed information.

- The board reviewed photos of the Dakins Lake Expansion project that Craig Meyers had taken from his remote-controlled helicopter.
- Pease reported that the BOS has expressed interest in partnering with the ISU Research Park on tracts to be developed as conservation areas. Cox has a meeting with ISU to determine what those partnerships might be in managing these new areas.
- Cox shared a card and letter he received from Bernadine Schaefer regarding additional stone on the new buildings at Dakins Lake.
- Cox noted a news article from the Ames Tribune and an email (in the supplemental packet) he had received about trapping at Peterson Park. A dog was caught in a trap (but not injured), which resulted in questions of where trapping was allowed and whether hunting areas should also exhibit signs for trapping to better inform the public. Cox said both the trapper and dog owner were using the area legally, but that this topic could be discussed at annual policy review.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz reported that he had harvested quite a bit of prairie seed on his property and gave it to the IRVM program. Meetz has received a couple of nominees for the annual Olav Smedal award and will be calling on board members to serve on the nominating committee. Referring to the discussion on public hunting areas, Meetz commented that he continually reminds people when they are out in public areas to wear blaze orange and make noise.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A FURNACE AND HEAT PUMP

Cox reported that of the three original furnaces installed in 1991, two units were replaced in June 2013. Although \$9,172 was from the same vendor that replaced the other units.

..... MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein to approve an expenditure of unbudgeted
 FY14 funds to purchase and install a furnace and heat pump at the conservation center.
 MCU.

12. CONSIDER CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR THE DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT, PHASE 1, AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL BY THE STORY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Referring to Director Cox’s memo to the board, Pease reiterated that this change order was due primarily to the contractor’s interpretation of compensation for differences in earthwork excavation. Cox added that the additional payment, if approved, would come out of contingency funds. Both Pease and Director Cox stated the contractor had done a good job in very little time and felt that the contractor executed the contract in good faith.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Hornstein, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that they approve change order # 3 for the Dakins Lake Expansion project, Phase 1, in the amount of \$8,405.94. MCU.

13. CONSIDER PLANS FOR THE DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT, PHASE 2, AND RECOMMEND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS

Director Cox distributed cost information on Phase 2 of the project, an updated timeline, and explained sources of funding --including TIF, REAP, the trust fund, grants, and conservation reserve. He hopes that bids come in low to allow the addition of alternate segments of the project. The picnic pavilion (\$270,000) is the first alternate in the Phase 2 bid package.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that they authorize solicitation of bids for Phase 2 of the Dakins Lake Expansion project. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

Referring to his memo, Cox described how the outreach coordinator position has grown in getting the word out and answering the phones to allow that position to do more with SCC's media program. The additional salary money needed in FY14 for the administrative assistant would come from lapses in employment while filling the outreach coordinator and conservation technician positions.

MOTION by Hornstein, SECOND by Meyers, to change the status of the administrative assistant from three-quarter time to full-time effective November 18, 2013. MCU.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND GRANT FOR DAKINS LAKE

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve application of a LRTP grant for prairie and tree planting at Dakins Lake. MCU.

16. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2013-05 ENDORSING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR IOWA NATURE TRAIL

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Hornstein, to approve Resolution #2013-05 endorsing a grant application to the CIRTPA Transportation Alternatives Program for hard surfacing on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. MCU.

17..... CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LETTER TO USF&WS IN SUPPORT OF WETLAND FUNDING

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber, to approve sending a letter from the board in support of wetland funding. MCU.

18. REVIEW FY15 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Director Cox reviewed the budget preparation instructions received from the board of supervisors and noted that Conservation/IRVM's worksession is scheduled for January 13. Clinton added that conservation board member attendance is welcomed by the supervisors. Cox stated that the proposed budget draft contains increases from last year. Requests include maintaining the status quo, additions for the environmental education program, FEMA-funded repairs, grants, and the Dakins Lake Expansion project. Cox reviewed worksheets for both the revenue and expense proposals, providing details and explanations as needed.

19. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox gave the following updates.

- Dakins Lake Expansion Project. We've been busy building a lake! Cox acknowledged all the hard work put forth by staff and stated that they are doing an incredible job.
- The legislators reception was a success, even though only a few legislators attended. Cox announced that PowerPoint presentations from that event have been placed on the county's website in pdf format.
- Cox was approached by individuals desiring to gain access from West Peterson Park for a dog kennel. Cox stated that the proposal was not in SCC's best interests, and he would not support it.
- Cox attended a meeting with representatives of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Pleasant Grove Church re: the Brotherson easement. The church is drafting a contract that would describe how the property is purchased by the church and cemetery. Story County would receive 30 acres and have an easement to access the property.
- Cox and Pease attended the REAP meeting in Des Moines. Two resolutions were passed:
 - 1) To ask the Iowa Legislature for \$25 million in REAP funding REAPS's 25-year anniversary;
 - 2) To ask the Iowa Legislature to support passage of the 3/8 percent increase in sales tax to support IWILL.

20. OTHER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board