

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, March 11, 2014
Story County Administration Building, Nevada, Iowa

66533440. Chair Joyce Hornstein called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

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

STAFF

Mike Cox
Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

Lauris Olson

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE

Chair Hornstein administered the oath of office to board member Ted Tedesco. Tedesco will serve through December 2018.

4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Lauris Olson, Ames News Online, was welcomed to the meeting.

5. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

There were no changes to the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2014 board meeting. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Meyers inquired if funds are adjusted between budget lines. Director Cox explained that expenses are kept in the appropriate budget line during the fiscal year, with any surplus or deficit going to the bottom line. Cox also verified that Hickory Grove shoreline stabilization project expenses will be reimbursed by the Iowa DNR.

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Chair Hornstein reminded board members of the REAP/Environmental Lobby Day at the Capitol on March 18. Cox and Hornstein (and possibly Tedesco and Meyers) are planning to attend. The IACCB spring workshop is April 5 in Ames; board members may register online or contact Financial Data Manager Van Waus to complete the registration. Cox shared information about the fundraising event for the Dakins Lake fish fund on April 5 in Zearing.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Hornstein called the board's attention to correspondence from the U.S. Department of the Interior re: allocation of duck stamp funding in response to the board's November 2013 letter requesting support of wetland funding in Iowa.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Olson stated she had no comments at this time but may have a question during discussion of the ISU Research Park/SCC collaboration.

12. CONSIDER LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AGREEMENT WITH IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Cox reminded the board that SCC applied for a grant for Dakins Lake in 2013, with notification received several months ago that \$175,000 was awarded. Previous LAWCON funding has been received for this park, and Cox said that SCC will adhere to the same restrictions set forth by LAWCON to manage Dakins Lake for outdoor recreation.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant agreement with . MCU.

13. CONSIDER FIRST READINGS OF CHANGES TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Cox explained proposed changes for open swimming at West Peterson Park, prohibited importation of firewood from outside Story County, and the use of other power driven mobility devices in all Story County Conservation areas in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The board noted some typographical errors, which will be corrected for the second reading. Meyers pointed out references to Dakins Lake recreational activities that will need to be suspended while the expansion project is in progress.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve first reading of changes to Story County Conservation Rules and Regulations. MCU.

14.DISCUSS COLLABORATION BETWEEN ISU RESEARCH PARK AND STORY COUNTY CONSERVA

After the ISU Research Park presentation at the February board meeting, Cox asked if the board would like to have discussions and responsibilities before moving forward. Tedesco suggested that stakeholder representatives be contacted. Cox will visit with Steve Carter regarding these options and report back to the board.

Guest Lauris Olson inquired about funding that was mentioned in the February minutes. Clinton responded that

15.DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MA

Cox stated that the county does not have a blueprint for county trail connectivity (i.e. Dakins Lake to Praeri Rail Trail, Heart of Iowa Nature Trail between Huxley and Slater, Ames trails to HOINT and Gilbert, Skunk River Greenbelt, etc.), and there is some interest in moving forward to accomplish this with a comprehensive plan. Trail development would only be one component of the plan; different/conflicting uses by the public, protection of sensitive areas, and land needed to reach connectivity are also issues to be considered. Cox thinks that cities, other public land managers, adjoining counties, trail entities, and interest/user groups would support such a plan. Cox stated that Story County Conservation would steer this project and that it would be a big time commitment. He added that one of the first

steps to take would be to compile data and reports already done.

Board members agreed that having a comprehensive plan in place would aid in receiving grants, help with budgeting, and set priorities.

Tedesco updated the board on the Army Corps of Engineer land situation and his work with Rep. King's office. King gave Tedesco another contact from the Corps; Tedesco is awaiting a response.

16. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox announced that Story County has entered into a second construction contract for the Dakins Lake expansion project. A pre-construction meeting was held last week, with the contractor providing a preliminary schedule. Work will begin as soon as ground conditions permit, and the contractor anticipates finishing in September.

The shoreline stabilization project at Hickory Grove has been completed. There are funds to purchase extra rock, which will be stockpiled and placed along the shoreline as needed.

An outside firm has been contracted to help the IRVM staff with tree removal in drainage ditches. Brush piles have been left on private land; IRVM will prioritize removal of these approximately 30 brush piles this spring. Cox said that staff has been working with landowners on best management practices on their land (i.e. buffer strips).

Park Ranger Luke Feilmeier is on the job effective March 10. He has moved into the residence at Hickory Grove and is busy getting oriented to Story County Conservation.

17. OTHER

Tedesco alerted the board on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on former railroad property reverting back to original landowners in Montana.

Hornstein stated that she has received feedback from all the board members to conduct the director's annual performance evaluation. She will summarize this information and meet with Cox in the next week or two.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Myers, that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board