

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, April 14, 2014  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

68088128. Chair Joyce Hornstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

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

STAFF

Mike Cox  
Jolene Van Waus  
Carol Williams

GUESTS

Mark Gannon (arrived 7:10)  
Mike Meetz

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mike Meetz, interested Nevada citizen, introduced himself.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Hornstein suggested moving the Special Projects Update (#14) ahead of the action items and the policy readings (#14) as the second action item. The supplemental claims list was noted.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

The director and financial data manager updated the board on budget amendments requested in expenses and revenues.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Hornstein reminded everyone of the Partners Spring Festival on May 4. Clinton said he may be absent for the May 12 meeting.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Pease summarized a response he received from Senator Grassley in reply to a letter sent from the board regarding federal duck stamp money revenues. Grassley attached a copy of a letter to the USFWS signed by the Iowa delegation expressing their displeasure with the funding as well as the response from the USFWS. Grassley noted that he will continue to monitor the USFWS's actions and advocate for Iowa.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hornstein welcomed Mark Gannon to the meeting. Gannon is a real estate broker in the Ames area and said he is representing a family that wants to sell 160 acres along the Skunk

River. Gannon expected the topic to be considered at tonight's meeting and disputed the director's understanding that the family was not ready to have this on the agenda. Director Cox said he anticipates that this topic will be an action item at the May meeting.

Mike Meetz announced that the May O.W.L.S. program will be on the Outdoor Alliance of Story County. The group may have a display at the spring festival, too. Meetz thanked the board for allowing him to borrow environmental education program items for a hunter education class at the Izaak Walton League.

#### 11. SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Carol Williams, special projects ranger, gave a presentation on her accomplishments over the past year.

Dakins Lake – Much of Williams' time last year was spent on the Dakins Lake expansion project, which began in November 2011 when TIF was approved by the board of supervisors. Williams showed a timeline of the project and a checklist of items to be completed during Phase II. Over \$14,000 was raised at a recent fundraising event in Zearing to stock larger fish in the lake. Field staff did a great job on construction of a parking lot kiosk that will provide updates to the public.

Partners - The Partners Advisory Committee continues to meet every two months. Membership totals remained at 174, with revenues increasing steadily. Funds were allocated to support various needs in FY14, including a trailer for the natural resource specialist, backpacking equipment for nature camps, and supplies and refreshments for public programs.

The 2013 Spring Partners Festival had a great turnout and was a fun event; the fall 2014 festival was rainy, resulting in the worst attendance ever. An annual meeting was held early in 2014, and participants enjoyed a program by environmental writers and took a short survey on the Partners program. Overall, the survey affirmed that Partners members like the way the membership program is handled. Help is still needed for the upcoming spring festival. Williams acknowledged Outreach Coordinator Sydney Algreen for her good work in organizing the Partners photo contest and thanked Meyers and Meetz for judging the contest. Williams added that a new category for "fan favorite" in the contest will be determined by Facebook voting.

Trails – The opening of the bike lanes on Country Club Road near Nevada was celebrated as was the closeout of construction phases 7 and 8 on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail (HOINT)! TEAM work days have been robust this year, with additional work days scheduled to accommodate requests from student groups. A lot of work has occurred on the Skunk River Greenbelt. Williams helped conduct trails assessments for the Other Power Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD) policy, assisted with 2013 flood damage assessments and provided GIS mapping, led the trails advisory committee, and worked with the Central Iowa Trails Authority.

Grants – Williams wrote or assisted in writing several grant proposals including: State Recreational Trails grant - HOINT; REAP cities grant - HOINT; REAP grant - Dakins Lake; Prairie Meadows - Central Iowa Trails signage; Living Roadway Trust Fund/Trees

Forever - Dakins Lake; CIRPTA Transportation Alternatives grant - HOINT; and Watershed Improvement Research Board (WIRB) - Hickory Grove Park.

Other – Williams attended law enforcement training on tasers and National Crime Information Center as well as County Conservation Peace Officer Association workshops. She prepared GIS maps for invasive species for the natural resource specialist and is working with Naturalist Emily Herring and Prairie Rivers of Iowa to plan a local foods bike ride. Williams met with several ISU classes for projects associated with Hertz Family Woods and Nature Preserve, Jennett Heritage Area, McFarland Park, the HOINT, and a Story County recreation survey.

Looking forward, Williams expects to be spending a lot of time on Phase II of the Dakins Lake project, the State Recreation Trails grant, and the WIRB grant for the Hickory Grove Watershed.

Board members thanked Williams for her presentation and all her hard work.

12. CONSIDER TERMINATION OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN STEPHEN MARK HALL AND NARDA HALL AND STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Cox showed the location of the easement on a parcel map. Cox explained that the trail on the easement does not connect with Story County land to the south, and he recommended that the board terminate the easement (upon the owners' request) with the possibility of reviewing it in the future.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to terminate the easement agreement between the Story County Conservation Board and the Halls. MCU.

13. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF CHANGES TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Story County Conservation Rules and Regulations - Special Projects Ranger Williams and Director Cox explained the new "Other Power Driven Mobility Device" (OPDMD) policy required by the United States Department of Justice. SCC has completed assessments of all parks and natural areas and compiled a list of trails and recommended OPDMDs for each. Permits will be issued for trails where OPDMDs can be operated. This information will be available on SCC's web page.

..... MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve a second reading of changes to .....Story County Conservation Rules and Regulations. MCU.

Story County Conservation Safety & Health Management Policy - Several typographical errors were noted by Meyers and corrected. Hornstein questioned whether pesticide applicators should be "certified" instead of "licensed." This will be clarified for the second reading. Clinton added that he would like to recognize Conservation's efforts in updating the policy to the county safety committee.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a first reading of changes to Story County Conservation Safety and Health Management Policy with corrections as noted. MCU.

Story County Conservation Personnel Policy - MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a first reading of changes to the Story County Conservation Personnel Policy.

..... Story County Conservation Operations Manual - Meyers noted typographical errors in the  
..... Other Power Driven Mobility Devices section.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve changes to the Story County Conservation Operations Manual with corrections. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2014 CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT CONTRACT WITH PATRICIA JENSEN

Park Ranger Luke Feilmeier is credited for recruiting candidates for the position this year. The contract period runs from April 18 – October 30, 2014.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve a campground attendant contract for the 2014 camping season with Patricia Jensen. MCU.

15. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GOAT GRAZING AGREEMENT WITH FINCH LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

..... Cox said that the agreement is the same as last year, The goats should arrive in a couple of weeks.

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MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve a goat grazing agreement with Finch Livestock Exchange

16. GENERAL UPDATES

Cox noted information on rails-to-trails projects in the packet regarding a court case in Montana contesting conversion of railroad rights of ways. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation believes no trails in Iowa will be affected by this case.

Story County Conservation hosted a successful workshop to share information on the emerald ash borer. About 30 people from area parks and recreation departments attended. Staff is working on a plan on how to handle firewood in SCC campgrounds and plans to complete a more thorough inventory of trees. Many trees at Breezy Bay Campground (just under 50 percent) are ash.

SCC is waiting to receive the WIRB grant agreement. Margaret Jaynes, county sanitarian, is coordinating a meeting for landowners with unpermitted septic systems in the Hickory Grove watershed later this week.

Cox reported that representatives of the ISU Research Park met with the director and two board members last week. Cox said a memorandum of understanding to include Story County Conservation, the city of Ames, and the ISU Research Park will come before the board for discussion, perhaps at the May meeting.

Cox also anticipates action on the Baldus land acquisition at the May meeting. Cox has funding from the state towards the purchase, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is willing and able to assist.

A fourth 2013 crop year distribution check was received from the Gladys Leui Estate, bringing FY14 revenue to \$127,009.

Staff is moving forward with 2013 flood repairs on the small projects approved by FEMA. Several of the repairs on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail need to be completed before re-surfacing can be done. Cox plans to present bids for cleaning ditches for the board's consideration at the May meeting.

17. OTHER

Hornstein reported on the IACCB workshop she and Meyers attended. Hornstein encouraged board members to review legislative updates sent by Tom Hazelton, and she distributed an Iowa Water and Land Legacy handout.

Tedesco attended a fishing club meeting last week and commented on a good presentation from the Iowa DNR on low-head dams.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 8:53.

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Recording Secretary

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Story County Conservation Board