

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, May 12, 2014
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair Joyce Hornstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Joyce Hornstein – present	Mike Cox	Brooke Ferrell
Ted Tedesco – absent	Melissa Johannes	Chris Davidson
Craig Meyers - present	Amy Yoakum	Max Havlik
Allen Weber – present	Luke Feilmeier	Rebecca Christoffel
Jim Pease – present	Carol Williams	Mike Meetz
Wayne Clinton – absent		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Rebecca Christoffel, ISU National Association of Interpretation advisor, Mike Meetz, a Nevada citizen, Brooke Ferrell & Chris Davidson, ISU students, and Max Havlik a Madrid resident, were welcomed to the meeting.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
There were no changes to the agenda.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2014 board meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
Pease commented that it is nice to once again see more receipts than expenses. Cox added that it is due to some grants, FEMA money, and Gladys Leiu Estate money that have come in. MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to approve claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES
Director Cox stated that in general he feels we are where we need to be. We have had some savings with staff transitions and some overages in operating expenses that will offset one another on the conservation budget. On the IRVM budget, the salary expenses will be exceeded, but operating expenses will be under mainly because we had budgeted for contract work that we ended up doing in-house. No amendments will be necessary for either budget.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
Chair Hornstein reviewed the upcoming events. The board changed the June meeting date from June 9 to June 10.
9. COMMUNICATIONS
 - a. Director Cox introduced the new park ranger, Luke Feilmeier, to the board. Luke gave a brief background on his experience and education as well as a few of the items he's already completed since starting with SCC. The board welcomed Luke aboard.

- b. Director Cox stated Danny Simcox, conservation technician II, just started, and will be introduced at the June board meeting.
- c. Director Cox then shared an email with that board that Sydney received from a volunteer from the spring *Partners* festival complementing her on how well things were ran and how nice the park was.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Meetz stated that he really enjoys leading the little ones on the birding programs. Ms. Christoffel thanked the board for having opportunities available for her NREM students to participate in.

11. PRESENTATION OF THE 2014 STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION TRAIL SURVEY RESULTS—AN OVERVIEW BROOKE FERRELL, ISU STUDENT

Brooke presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board and guests outlining the survey she conducted and the conclusions she has made based on her research. The board and director thanked Brooke for her thorough work and time. The special projects ranger was given the full report for future use.

12. NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE AMY YOAKUM, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Natural Resource Specialist Yoakum presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board reviewing the projects she has been involved with over the last year. The board thanked her for all her work.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH JENSEN EXCAVATING FOR FEMA REPAIRS ON THE HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the contract with Jensen Excavating for FEMA repairs on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT RE: THE HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL

Special Projects Ranger Williams gave a brief background of this agreement.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Joint Public Service Agreement Re: The High Trestle Trail as amended, correcting the word “Dalls” to “Dallas” County in the title. MCU.

15. CONSIDER FIRST READING OF REVISIONS TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD BY-LAWS

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Pease, to approve the First Reading of Revisions to Story County Conservation Board By-laws. MCU.

16. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF REVISIONS TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION PERSONNEL POLICY.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber to approve the second reading of revisions to the Story County Conservation Personnel Policy. MCU.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to strike the word herbicide” from page 10 in Section 6.1 and keep the word “training” in the “Hazard Communication Standard Training” paragraph on page 15 and approve the second reading of revisions to Story County Conservation Safety and Health Management Policy as amended. MCU.

UPDATES:

17. GENERAL UPDATES

The Director gave a verbal report to the board.

- The Hickory Grove Lake Watershed Improvement project is progressing. Margaret Jaynes is coordinating the landowner septic system replacement portion of the program. All but one of the land owners has indicated that they will participate. The director is working on an agreement with Fox Engineering that should be ready for the next board meeting.
- The Dakin's Lake expansion project has experienced some difficulties with the subcontractor not pouring the boat ramp yet. The lake level is at the low flow elevation (10' below normal pool). The lake has been stocked with some large bass and 2" – 3" bluegill. The shoreline is not stabilized. More seeding and slope stabilization will be done. The general contractor will be on site to pour the footings for the shower house with the components expected to be delivered in the next 2-3 weeks.
- The county is doing a program for community information called "Program for Public Information". This is a flooding and watershed educational effort. The director has more information on it if anyone is interested.
- The Director had information on Emerald Ash Borer for anyone interested. We are waiting on the signs for Hickory Grove Park to come in and have been receiving calls from people complaining about the firewood rule changes.
- Doolittle Prairie was burned a couple weeks ago as part of the management burn.
- The Iowa Parks Foundation and Green Ribbon Commission have two million dollars for developing the "Parks to People" program. They are looking for ways to increase trails, water quality, use, etc. and would like to fund two or three multi-disciplinary projects. The director has more information if anyone is interested, and feels it is worth looking into and discussing with neighboring counties.
- DOT is proposing to perform streambank mitigation at Hickory Grove Park. The mitigation is at the public comment stage. Funding is available to restore approximately 3,000' of streambank.

18. OTHER ---

Pease commented on the proposed EPA definition of "Waters of the United States". He stated that the Wildlife Society is in favor of the new definition and that we should consider all applicable aspects of the definition.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board