

Story County Conservation Board
Tuesday, June 10, 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

Joyce Hornstein – present

Ted Tedesco – absent

Craig Meyers - present

Allen Weber – absent

Jim Pease - present

Wayne Clinton – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

Danny Simcox

GUESTS

None

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Director Cox introduced staff member Danny Simcox, who was welcomed to Story County Conservation by the board. Simcox, the new Conservation Technician II, received his B.S. degree in Animal Ecology from ISU in 2011 and has worked with AmeriCorps, the Iowa DNR, and Pheasants Forever. Cox said Simcox’s experience and background will be an asset to Story County Conservation.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Hornstein reviewed the agenda; no changes were made.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2014 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

Hornstein noted the supplemental claims list for the board’s review.

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox remarked that the financial reports in the supplemental packet reflect FY14 expenses through the end of the year (with the exception of one more payroll). Revenue collected in June should exceed budget projections.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is July 14. Clinton said he will not be able to attend. Cox announced a new paddling event on June 22 at River Valley Park in conjunction with the Central Iowa Paddlers.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Copies of two recent articles—one from the Ames Bulletin Board re: Hickory Grove Park, and the other from Iowa Outdoors magazine on prescribed grazing at McFarland Park—were shared with the board. Cox also reminded board members of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation’s 35th anniversary celebration on June 26.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11. CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF FY13 ANNUAL REPORT

Board members remarked that the report was an attractive document and that they enjoyed the photographs. Pease noted that Rick Sanders was the board of supervisors chair in 2013 --not Wayne Clinton as listed.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to accept the FY13 Story County Conservation Board Annual Report. MCU.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY15 SALARIES FOR CONSERVATION STAFF

Clinton acknowledged that the proposed salary increase was the same cost-of-living adjustment set for the rest of Story County staff.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to accept FY15 salaries with 2 percent cost-of-living increases for Conservation staff. MCU.

13. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF REVISIONS TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BY-LAWS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve second reading of Story County Conservation By-Laws. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH IOWA DNR LAKES PROGRAM FOR HICKORY GROVE WATERSHED

Cox reported that the agreement is not ready for consideration at tonight's meeting.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to table this item pending the receipt of the completed agreement.

15. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT

Pease noted that WIRB grant funds were among the items that the governor vetoed for next year, so it was important for Story County Conservation to complete.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a Watershed Improvement Fund Grant contract between the Watershed Improvement Review Board and Story County Conservation. MCU.

16. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH FOX ENGINEERING FOR HICKORY GROVE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Cox explained that this agreement would secure Fox Engineering services from the design phase through contract management for the watershed improvement grant. This is in addition to the \$5,000 paid in FY14 for a conceptual design in preparing the grant proposal.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve an agreement with Fox Engineering for Hickory Grove Watershed Improvement Grants engineering services. MCU.

17. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ENDORSING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

In response to a question from Pease, Cox feels the \$40,000 in matching funds are attainable from local businesses. Cox added that the grant could be refused if these funds are not received.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a resolution endorsing a grant application to the State Recreational Trails Program for hard surfacing the Heart of Iowa of Iowa Nature Trail between the cities of Huxley and Cambridge. MCU.

18. DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR COUNTY-WIDE RECREATION OPPORUNITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Cox announced that Story County has contracted with the University of Northern Iowa to come up with a vision that will guide a comprehensive plan for the entire county. Cox added that the timing is coincidental with development of a recreational trails plan, and SCC has already talked about developing a natural resources plan. Cox would like to work on a comprehensive plan for SCC that would address recreational opportunities and natural resource planning for the next 30 years, which could then be rolled into the county's comprehensive plan. He has talked to the county's planning and development director, and she thinks this is a good idea. Cox shared draft documents that UNI staff prepared as well as some of his ideas.

Board members were receptive to working on these plans—either at a special meeting or individually. Pease said some data on population and trails might have already been done by IACCB or INHF.

Cox remarked that different components may move forward at different stages and asked board members to share their thoughts at next month's meeting. He added that an anonymous donor is poised to offer assistance on an internship program. Cox will plan to move forward on this internship, focusing on trails.

19. GENERAL UPDATES

Dakins Lake Expansion Project - Cox reported that the board of supervisors approved a change order at their meeting today for the Dakins Lake Expansion Project, Phase I, for costs associated with correcting soil erosion. A change order for Phase II is being prepared and will include some credits on the utility design.

The footings have been poured for the shower building, boat ramp concrete has been completed, and footings for the picnic shelter have been started. The trail around the lake may be done today. Cox said the lake is filling, and he estimated that it is 7-8 feet below normal pool. Largemouth bass and channel catfish (2,000 each) were stocked today to join 10,000 bluegill already stocked by the IDNR. Local newspapers documented the event, with 20-30 people taking the fish in buckets to the lake. Kits for the buildings are on site, and the seedings are finally greening up. Board members said they would enjoy seeing the project's progress—perhaps prior to the July meeting.

Army Corps of Engineers – Cox and Hornstein met with Supervisor Rick Sanders and county attorneys Stephen Holmes and Jessica Reynolds to discuss transfer of land north of Ames. Sanders will be in Washington DC next week and plans to meet with legislators, and Holmes

and Reynolds are having a conference call with representatives from the Corps this week. Cox said he is encouraged about the increased dialog on this project.

ISU Research Park – Cox reported that a draft of a project timeline has not been received yet. Story County will continue to work with the research park on plans as there will be budgetary implications.

20. OTHER
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board