

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, September 8, 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 – present

Craig Meyers - absent

Allen Weber – present

Jim Pease - present

Wayne Clinton – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

Ed Engle

Greg Vitale

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ed Engle, Ames Area Amateur Astronomers, and Greg Vitale, representing the Outdoor Alliance of Story County, introduced themselves and were welcomed by the board chair.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2014 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Pease asked about the payment process for construction expenses at Dakins Lake. Cox replied that the contractor submits bills based on their progress to Shive-Hattery. Shive-Hattery then prepares a pay application, sends it to SCC to verify that the work has been done, and SCC processes a claim for payment.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The chair noted the many events occurring in September and October. Several of these need volunteers.

To allow review of bids for trail re-surfacing (2013 flood repairs), the board discussed changing the date of the October meeting. Cox reported that bids are due September 30, and the board of supervisors will take action on October 7. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to re-schedule the next meeting to October 6 at 7:00 p.m. MCU.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

The chair noted a letter in the packet from Jim and Arlene Bates urging the board to oppose the Bakken Pipeline coming through Story County or the state of Iowa.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Greg Vitale announced that the Outdoor Alliance of Story County has signed a memorandum of understanding with Story County Conservation to subsidize bussing costs for service learning projects at SCC (handout distributed). Vitale added that Linda Zaletel has done an excellent job of fundraising for OASC, the board is working on a logo design, and they have started the process of being part of the Story County Community Foundation. Chair Hornstein thanked Vitale for his volunteer work with the Alliance and Story County Conservation.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNT AT HICKORY GROVE

Cox commented that every reasonable effort to limit the goose population and reduce bacteria at Hickory Grove is being taken. DNR biologists are supportive of the hunt, and Cox said the staff is making slight modifications to procedures from previous years. A press release will be sent to publicize the hunt.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve resolution #2014-04 temporarily suspending the refuge status at Hickory Grove Park for a controlled goose hunt from October 5, 2014 – January 9, 2015. MCU.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DONATION TO AMES AREA AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Story County Conservation *Partners* have requested permission to donate funds to the Ames Area Amateur Astronomers for a telescope mount at the observatory located at McFarland Park. Ed Engle explained that the current mount on the 14-inch Celestron telescope is too expensive to repair and needs to be replaced. The astronomers group has found a higher-quality mount which will enhance viewing at monthly star parties. Future plans include establishing a link to the conservation center to stream video for programs.

.....MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve a donation of \$1,500 to the Ames Area Amateur Astronomers from Story County Conservation *Partners* towards the purchase of a telescope mount. MCU.

13. REVIEW STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Cox has reviewed the strategic plan and noted tasks that have been completed. Some tasks/goals are ongoing, and Cox feels that significant progress has been made in all categories. Cox commented that SCC has been more proactive in reaching out to landowners to help deal with invasive species, and he would like to see that continue as well as providing more education/outreach about water quality and watershed management.

Cox sees the need to improve efforts in fundraising and marketing, which may tie into components of the county's comprehensive plan (in progress). Cox would like to have the board's vice-chair or a committee involved in setting up a campaign for fundraising. Board members discussed funding to SCC through wills and conservation easements, potential partnerships with the Outdoor Alliance of Story County, and increasing the public's knowledge of SCC and its mission through feature stories.

The board agreed that a re-affirmation of the plan be included on the October board meeting agenda.

14. GENERAL UPDATES

- Cox distributed tentative plans for the legislators reception on November 14. Comments/changes on questions should be directed to Pease. Pease suggested having some visuals/displays at the research park and the Outdoor Alliance of Story County. Talking points (distributed at the August meeting) will be discussed at the October board meeting.
  
- Cox reported that there has been progress on the watershed project.
  
- Cox distributed handouts on the county's Capital Improvement Plan. Departments are currently preparing applications for the FY16 budget, which will be reviewed by a committee for recommendations to the board of supervisors. All of Conservation's requests from last year, as well as any new projects, will be submitted. Cox said a new shower house and a new beach house at Hickory Grove are near the top of the list. Per Tedesco's suggestion, Cox said he will evaluate the need to add the Army Corps land project.

15. OTHER

Chair Hornstein reminded board members to submit their IACCB ballots by September 16. Cox, Pease, Meyers, and Hornstein will be attending the annual conference in Sioux City.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.  
Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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