

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, October 6, 2014
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair Joyce Hornstein called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Joyce Hornstein – present	Mike Cox	None
Ted Tedesco – absent	Jolene Van Waus	
Craig Meyers - present	Jerry Keys	
Allen Weber – present	Erica Eaves	
Jim Pease - present		
Wayne Clinton – present		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
New staff member Erica Eaves was introduced and welcomed.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to move the environmental education report ahead of action items on the agenda. MCU.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 board meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to approve claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES
Meyers noted a percentage error in the FEMA line funds expended. There was also discussion on the balance remaining in the grounds maintenance account and cost of installing fiber to the multipurpose room at the conservation center. Clinton encouraged Director Cox to request financial assistance from the board of supervisors for this installation. Cox also provided additional information on tractor repairs in September.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
The fall Partners festival was held yesterday, with over 350 people attending. Operation ReLeaf tree distribution is October 16; Cox said that volunteers are needed for this event. The legislators reception is November 14 at 9:00 a.m., and the November board meeting is the 10th at 5:30 p.m.
9. COMMUNICATIONS
Cox noted a letter in the packet re: opposition to the Bakken pipeline.
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION UNIT UPDATE

Environmental Education Coordinator Jerry Keys shared highlights from the last fiscal year.

- Rebekah Beall Warburton was hired in August as a fourth, full-time naturalist, and Erica Eaves just joined SCC as the outreach coordinator in September.
- There were 644 indoor programs, 414 outdoor experiences, and 8 service learning projects in FY14, resulting in almost 27,000 contacts. Some new public programs were offered: hunter education on-line field days, photo scavenger hunt, a photography clinic, snowshoes and soup, and GPS egg hunt. The flintknapping was popular, as was a valentine dinner featuring a live owl. An “elf hunt” using GPS will be held this winter.
- Keys said the staff is focusing on outdoor experiences for schools. Some programs were adjusted; other new programs were added.
- Naturalist Emily Herring and Special Projects Ranger worked with Prairie Rivers of Iowa to co-sponsor a Local Food Cycle bike ride. Over 120 bikers made stops at seven farms and enjoyed food prepared by local chefs. This event may be held again in 2015.
- A \$2,000 grant from the Outdoor Alliance of Story County was received to reimburse schools for transporting students to SCC parks for service learning projects. The grant was co-sponsored by Big Bluestem Audubon and Story County Pheasants Forever.
- SCC lends equipment and educational materials to schools. In the past year, IDNR fishing poles and fly rods were borrowed 11 times, nature tubs (nine different topics) were checked out 41 times, and miscellaneous equipment (including canoes, trailers, binoculars and bird books, camping supplies, and compasses) were used by 12 groups.
- The OnCell program is still going well. There are currently ten park stops with plans to add more this winter.
- SCC continues use of social media through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (inactive at this time). Posts are made on other Facebook sites to increase registration numbers.
- Upcoming events include the Halloween Hike on October 25 and Leopold Bench Building workshop starting December 2. Story County Conservation is hosting the National Association of Interpretation Region V workshop in March at the Quality Inn in Ames.
- With a fourth naturalist on board, staff plans to offer some new summer camps to specific age groups. SCC may also be sharing staff and resources with Polk County Conservation to offer different programs.

Board members thanked Keys for his presentation and for the positive outreach that the environmental education staff provides SCC.

12. CONSIDER REAFFIRMATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

Some additional changes were made to the plan to include sewer replacement at Hickory Grove Park, future cabin reservation. Suggestions were also made to improve the procedure for developing management plans and addressing cooperation with private landowners. Cox proposed that the board reaffirm the plan annually prior to budget planning and review for rewrites every two-three years.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to reaffirm the Story County Conservation Strategic Plan with changes made tonight. MCU.

13. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF FY15 LEGISLATIVE SESSION POSITION PAPER

The board reviewed a draft of the position paper and made several changes.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to adopt Story County Conservation FY15 legislative session position paper with changes. MCU.

14. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2014-05 APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN STORY COUNTY AND CANADA FOR A LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND GRANT

Cox explained that the Iowa DOT now requires a resolution approving LRTF grant agreements. IRVM was awarded a hydroseeder; matching funds were allocated in the FY15 IRVM budget. Cox added that a city in Canada is going to buy the old hydroseeder.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Pease, to approve Resolution #2014-05 approving an agreement between Story County and Canada for a Living Roadway Trust Fund Grant #90-85-LR15-334 for \$24,000 to purchase a Bowie hydroseeder. MCU.

15. CONSIDER CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR DAKINS LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT

Cox reported that during construction of the dam, it was discovered that more tile work was needed. This change order is for tile work in the emergency spillway. Erosion mat will be included to aid vegetation growth in this area. Cox said that funds are available in TIF and the Conservation budget for this change order.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber, to recommend change order #3 for the Dakins Lake Expansion Project, Phase 2, for approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

16. REVIEW BID PROPOSALS FOR RESURFACING PORTIONS OF THE HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL AND PRAIERI RAIL TRAIL

Cox reminded the board that this project was re-bid with the substantial completion date extended to May 15, 2015. Con-Struct was the low bidder and anticipates getting the project done yet this fall. Cox added that there is a \$14,000 difference in available funding and anticipates that FEMA will cover 85 percent of that cost overrun.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that the bid for resurfacing portions of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and Praeri Rail Trail be awarded to Con-Struct in the amount of \$111,342. MCU.

17. CONSIDER UTILITY PERMIT ON THE HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL IN CAMBRIDGE

Showing an aerial map of Cambridge, Cox explained that the city is developing lots east of the elevator and needs a utility permit for the complete restoration of the trail. These points will be added to the agreement.

Under #1, the plat description will be included before the permit is signed. Under #7, this sentence will be added. "This may include but is not limited to differential settling, surface cracking, and erosion." Under #10, damages will be increased to \$500 per day.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to grant a utility permit to the City of Cambridge with amended wording. MCU.

18. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox gave these updates:

- The board's second legislative reception is scheduled for November 14 at 9:00 a.m. A panel discussion will focus on a potential partnership with the Iowa State University

Research Park and include Supervisor Rick Sanders, Director Mike Cox, Steve Carter (ISU Research Park), and Tracy Warner from the City of Ames Public Works Department. Jim Pease will serve as moderator, and Tom Hazelton will be invited to give a short presentation.

- Due to rainy weather, there is not a lot of progress to report on the Dakins Lake Expansion project. The dock is being constructed today. The block wall on the shelter is close to being done; the roof and pad still need to be completed. The substantial completion date will not be met; however, Cox does not anticipate problems with the scheduled park opening in the spring.
- With help from Kevin Kane, ISU College of Design, two interns have been hired to do the trails inventory and to start work on Story County Conservation's comprehensive recreation plan.
- Pictures of fish sampled at Dakins last week by the IDNR were shared. Nice-sized, healthy fish included bluegills, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass.

19. OTHER

Board chair Hornstein distributed notepads publicizing the 2015 IACCB Conference in Linn County. She, Pease, and Meyers will give a more in-depth report on the 2014 conference next month.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber, that the meeting be adjourned.
Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board