

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, December 1, 2014  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair Joyce Hornstein called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Joyce Hornstein – present	Mike Cox	Ruth & Loren Book
Ted Tedesco – present	Jolene Van Waus	
Craig Meyers - present		
Allen Weber – present		
Jim Pease - present		
Wayne Clinton – absent		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS  
Chair Hornstein introduced the guests and welcomed them to the meeting.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS  
Updated budget proposals were included in the supplemental handout.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2014 board meeting. Hornstein suggested that the meeting location be added. Weber amended his motion to include that the meeting was held at the ISU Research Park. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2014 board meeting. MCU.
7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS  
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to approve claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES  
Cox remarked that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report for November.
9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS  
Hornstein noted upcoming public programs. The January board meeting is scheduled for January 12. Weber said he will be absent for the February 9 meeting.
10. COMMUNICATIONS  
Cox distributed an article from a Sierra Club newsletter regarding a proposed pipeline and noted public meeting dates.

Pease commented that Bill Horine's obituary was in Sunday's newspaper. Pease noted Horine's many contributions to Story County Conservation.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruth Book, Bill Horine's daughter, was present to inform the board that the family would like to establish a memorial to honor Horine's love of teaching and the outdoors. They asked the board and staff to consider SCC's needs and where memorial funds could be utilized. A celebration of life for Horine will be held at the conservation center sometime in the spring. The board extended their sympathy to the family and thanked the Books for attending the meeting.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY16 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Director Cox distributed and explained a spreadsheet comparing Story County Conservation staff salaries and benefits to similar-sized counties. Cox included data on individual salaries, average wages per job description, difference between SCC wages and average wages, and years of experience. That information was then prorated and compared with Story County's proposed 2.25 percent cost-of-living increase for FY16, and the greater adjustment was selected as a recommended salary increase for each employee.

The board discussed these comparisons as well the costs of employee turnover--recruiting, replacing, and training employees--as well as benefit packages. Overall, the board was in agreement of Cox's methodology and applauded him for his efforts.

In addition to salary adjustments, Cox reported on other changes in the budget proposals. Training and license fees for staff to haul larger trailers (\$1,000) was added to the Education and Training line, and the Communication Services line was increased by \$14,000 for the new phone system (fiber optic service and monthly service fees). The board discussed this increase at length. Except for salary increases, there were no changes to the IRVM budget proposal.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve FY16 Conservation and IRVM budget proposals. MCU. The board thanked Cox and Van Waus for all their work on the budget.

13..... CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR MEMORIAL BENCH AT HICKORY GROVE PARK

Cox remarked that this is similar to other requests for memorial benches. Park Ranger Feilmeier has met with the

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve placement of a bench at Hickory Grove Park in memory of Adele and Ray Stefani. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2015

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Weber, to approve suggested meeting dates for 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for the entire year. MCU.

15. ISU RESEARCH PARK AGREEMENT UPDATE

Cox distributed and reviewed a revised draft of the proposed agreement with the ISU Research Park. Additional changes were suggested by the board, and Cox will submit the agreement to the county attorney for review. Cox also distributed preliminary capital cost opinions for the trails and natural resource improvements for the park. Cox added that he is working on a budget for ongoing costs, including staff.

16. GENERAL UPDATES

Pease inquired about the status of the Tribune's 2014 Unsung Hero Award. Van Waus will follow up with the Tribune's editor. Cox attended Bernadine Schaefer's funeral and shared details of the service.

17. REPORT ON 2014 IACCB CONFERENCE

Board members reported on the annual conference held in Sioux City. Hornstein passed around shower house designs from other counties and said she enjoyed touring cabins and the nice nature center. Pease reported that he took photos of a natural playscape, and Meyers liked the presentation on renewable energy. Board members recommended that solar energy be considered when building cabins in the future.

18. REPORT ON IOWA PUBLIC INFORMATION BOARD AND OPEN MEETINGS AND RECORDS LAW PRESENTATION

Hornstein reported on this presentation for county employees offered by the board of supervisors. Updated open meetings and records law handbooks were distributed, and Hornstein offered to provide a written summary of the meeting. Tedesco requested copies of the meeting handouts as well as the revised open meetings law handbooks.

19. OTHER

Survey questions for the legislators' reception were reviewed and discussed. Survey Monkey will be utilized to poll the participants to aid in planning future events.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn the meeting.  
Chair Hornstein adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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