

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, April 13, 2015  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

144050176. Chair Ted Tedesco called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Ted Tedesco – present  
Craig Meyers - present  
Allen Weber – present  
Jim Pease – absent  
Nancy Franz - present  
Wayne Clinton – present

STAFF

Mike Cox  
Jolene Van Waus  
Erica Eaves

GUESTS

Joyce Hornstein  
Richard Hunter  
Karen Hunter

40885952. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The chair welcomed Karen and Richard Hunter, Nevada, and Joyce Hornstein, Huxley. Tedesco then presented a gift to past board member Joyce Hornstein and thanked her for her 10 years of service to the Story County Conservation Board.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Tedesco stated that the outreach coordinator’s report will be moved ahead of the action items, and that no action will be taken on the ISU Research Park agreements tonight.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

Meyers asked about fax line charges and inquired about the need for analog phone lines in case of power outages. Financial Data Coordinator Van Waus will follow up on this possibility and expense.

7. CONSIDER AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISU RESEARCH PARK AND STORY COUNTY

Cox reported that a significant amount of work has occurred since the April 1 meeting to develop agreements with the research park. Cox summarized changes to the agreement and added that the trail extension route and final site plan are yet to be determined. He plans to present the agreement between the ISU Research Park and Story County for approval at the May meeting—unless a special meeting is needed.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Weber, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors to take no action on the agreement at this time. MCU.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox reported that he and Van Waus have been working on end-of-year budget projections.

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tedesco announced that a volunteer event will be held on April 22 (Earth Day) to plant 200 trees/shrubs at Dakins Lake. The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4 at 5:30 unless a special meeting is necessary to consider the ISU Research Park agreements. Director Cox said that an event celebrating the park's opening is tentatively planned for mid-June. A lot of work needs to be completed before the park is ready.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter stated he had purchased a 2015 season camping pass for Dakins Lake at a fundraiser in Zearing. Since the park will not open until later in May, Mr. Hunter asked if the pass would be honored at Hickory Grove. Director Cox replied that it would. Mr. Hunter also had questions about the 14-day stay limit at the campgrounds. Board members will be reviewing the rules and regulations for a second reading next month and told Mr. Hunter they would take his comments into consideration.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GRAZING LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FINCH LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the grazing lease agreement with Finch Livestock Exchange for goats at Robison Wildlife Acres. MCU.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DAKINS LAKE CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT CONTRACT

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Franz, to approve a contract with Ashley Jones for 2015 at Dakins Lake. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL BENCH AT DAKINS LAKE

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to approve placement of a bench at Dakins Lake in memory of Bill Jones. MCU.

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

Franz explained her edits of the document to make wording clear and up to date. The term "reasonable," was discussed and accepted.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a second reading of the Story County Conservation Board By-laws. MCU.

16. VOLUNTEER/OUTREACH UPDATE

Erica Eaves gave a report on SCC's volunteer and outreach efforts during the past year, including the last six months she has been on the job.

Volunteers - In FY14, 237 individuals and 27 groups volunteered for a total of 3,414 hours. To date in FY15, 226 individuals and 21 groups have contributed 2,629 hours. Eaves has enjoyed meeting volunteers and is looking forward to a tree planting day at Dakins Lake and the Partners spring festival. She is looking at better ways to communicate with and recruit volunteers as well as track volunteer information and hours. Possibilities include a

subscription-based system so volunteers can choose the types of opportunities they would like to hear about, a new feature on the county's website "refresh," or an email marketing program. A volunteer appreciation dinner will be held on April 17; Eaves is expecting around 70 to attend. Due to the discontinuation of volunteer hosts at the conservation center on Sundays, Eaves has been working with other staff to provide information to visitors on new kiosks at McFarland Park. Eaves is also planning to meet with SCC staff to see where they could use volunteers and determine Eave's role in the process.

Social Media – SCC has a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Eaves has been pleased with the growth of the Facebook page and feels it is a good way to reach a large portion of the public. She is looking for ways to reach out to the 18-24 age group.

Prairie Horizons Newsletter – One of Eaves' first tasks was learning the InDesign software program to publish the newsletter. The last newsletter was mailed to 1,782 households, 555 copies were delivered to libraries and businesses, and 586 electronic versions were emailed.

Each newsletter is placed on the county website and on the SCC Facebook page.

Merchandise – Eaves has worked with other staff to select volunteer tokens and new merchandise for sale. Initial items include lens cleaning cloths and stainless steel mugs.

The board thanked Eaves for her report and all that she does to promote Story County Conservation.

#### 17. GENERAL UPDATES

- Cox thanked Franz for her work in editing and formatting policies and procedures.
- Financial Data Manager Van Waus reported that April 18 is the first day for on-line registrations for summer nature camps. The new system has been tested with smaller programs and is working well.
- Cox reported on a soft trails conference presentation in Des Moines last week and informed the board that he will be presenting at an energy conference in Cedar Falls later this week.
- The punch list for Dakins Lake was done today. Cox reported that site work is very close to being done with grouting and concrete work to be completed yet. It was decided to have the contractor complete mulching and crimping to accelerate seeding growth. The contractor has been busy completing tasks, and Cox anticipates that the April 15 deadline will be met.

#### 18. BOARD REPORTS

- Meyers reported that he and Mike Meetz judged the Partners Photo contest, and he and Tedesco attended Park Ranger Luke Feilmeier's graduation ceremony at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. The Outdoor Alliance of Story County is meeting next week.
- Franz announced that a TEAM day will be held at McFarland Park on April 18 and that the tools are sharpened and ready to go.
- Clinton said the board of supervisors will be discussing health insurance options for employees at tomorrow's meeting. Clinton added that he was extremely pleased with the joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Clinton also praised Director Cox for his presentation on the ISU Research Park and the tremendous work he has done on this project.

19. OTHER

Tedesco informed the board the he delivered the director's annual evaluation to Story County's Human Resources Director Alissa Wignall.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, that the meeting be adjourned.

Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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