

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

117696000. 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 – present  
Nancy Franz - present  
Wayne Clinton – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox  
Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

Chris Shires

123703776. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Tedesco welcomed guest Chris Shires from Confluence.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Tedesco noted that action items 12 and 13 will be moved to the August meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Pease asked about unexpended funds in the FY15 Conservation budget. Director Cox said he will request that these funds be earmarked for the Hickory Grove Watershed Improvement Project in FY16.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tedesco noted the next board meeting on August 10 and the IACCB Fall Conference September 17-19. Pease, Tedesco, and Cox are planning to attend.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Cox read a letter from Ruth Book and Jan Flanigan thanking staff and board for helping with their father's (Bill Horine) memorial service. The family has met with Cox to discuss options for a memorial honoring Horine—one of SCC's founding board members.

10. CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR OXBOW RESTORATION AT JENNETT HERITAGE AREA

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Meyers, to approve an agreement between Story County Conservation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for oxbow restoration at Jennett Heritage Area effective July 9, 2015. MCU.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY14 ANNUAL REPORT

Board members received a draft of the FY14 annual report in their supplemental packet. Cox asked the board to review the report and forward comments/corrections to him.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to table approval of the Story County Conservation FY14 Annual Report at the August meeting. MCU.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL PERGOLA AT MCFARLAND PARK

Since the request was not ready to submit, Tedesco removed the item from consideration.

13. STORY COUNTY C2C PLAN -TRAILS AND RECREATION PLAN

Chris Shires, Confluence, updated the board on the Cornerstone to Capstone (C2C) Plan. Four county-wide meetings (at Huxley, Ames, Colo, and Story City) were held for public input, and Shires shared comments from these meetings. He remarked that there has been good response to the on-line survey, and the public has commented the desire for protection of Story County's natural resources.

Shires showed the board several maps including existing trails, geology, slope analysis, soils, watersheds, floodplains/wind turbine/quarry locations, land cover, prairie land, historic vegetation type, aquifers, travel corridors, drainage districts, habitat, and landscape plan (from SCC's 1975 plan) and took comments/questions from the board.

A public input meeting will be held at the conservation center on August 11 at 6:00 p.m. Some of the maps will be available for review and comments that evening, and a formal presentation will start at 6:30 p.m. Shires will present results of the survey and a proposed version of the recreation plan and policy statements at the September SCC board meeting.

The board thanked Shires for his presentation. Cox added that it has been a pleasure to work with Shires on the trails component of the plan.

14. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox reported the following:

- A pre-construction meeting was held for the Hickory Grove Watershed Improvement Project. Cox expects construction to be underway soon.
- Cox hopes to have an agreement for the Hickory Grove sewer project on the August meeting agenda. If approved, Central Iowa Water Association plans to complete the project this year.
- Cox will be meeting with ISU staff later this month to discuss the R38 trail connection at the ISU Research Park.
- In addition to the oxbow project, work will be done to enhance a wetland at the Jennett Heritage Area. This project is being funded by the Iowa DNR.
- Cox met with a family interested in selling land to Story County. Pheasants Forever may be able to provide some cash for this potential acquisition.
- Cox and Park Ranger Luke Feilmeier attended a reception at Camp Dodge to accept a Freedom Award from the Air National Guard. Feilmeier nominated SCC for this award.
- Cox reported that there has been no action on the Corps land acquisition.
- SCC has received a bequest of 240 acres including row crops, remnant prairie, and reconstructed prairie.
- Cox met with the IDOT regarding mitigation funding for the ISU Research Park project.

123703872. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz reported on the July trails committee meeting. Two workdays are planned at McFarland in the fall, and the committee discussed bridge repairs needed at Robison Wildlife Acres. One of their concerns is the need for more equipment. Partners approved funding for a two-person saw, and Franz said everyone is thrilled with the new trailer grader. Franz remarked that the trails committee is a group of dedicated people!
- Meyers announced that the Outdoor Alliance of Story County has set a goal to raise \$25,000 for land acquisition.
- Tedesco thanked Director Cox and the entire staff for all their work towards a successful Dakins Lake dedication. Everyone in attendance enjoyed and appreciated the event. Tedesco reported that there has been a change in county personnel procedures. The director must report absences to the board chair and receive approval for planned absences. The board will also need to approve all employee action forms before they are submitted to the board of supervisors office.
- Weber recognized staff for the great Dakins Lake dedication event.
- Pease said there have been no updates on an agreement with the ISU Research Park.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.  
Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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