

Story County Conservation Board
April 11, 2016
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

41519120. Chair Craig Meyers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Nancy Franz – present

Allen Weber – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Jim Pease – present

Wayne Clinton – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

Erica Eaves

GUESTS

None

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Meyers reviewed the agenda and noted supplemental handouts.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 and April 6, 2016 board meetings. MCU.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox reported that some large expenses are pending; however, the budget is on track for this time of the fiscal year.

7. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The chair highlighted several upcoming events. Jim Pease will be a parade announcer at the All Species, One Earth parade on April 23.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A letter sent to the board concerning use of Reactor Woods will be directed to Cathy Brown at Iowa State University.

9. OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE

Outreach Coordinator Erica Eaves gave a report on her activities over the last year.

Volunteers - In calendar year 2015, 1,300 volunteers contributed over 3,400 hours to SCC. Several new projects (including wasp watchers, Eagle Scout projects, and individual prairie seed collecting) occurred over the last year. The annual volunteer dinner will be held on April 13. Eaves is analyzing and implementing changes to the volunteer program. An internal needs assessment was conducted, and SCC has joined in a Service Enterprise Initiative to receive training to help recruit and retain volunteers. An action plan has been created to help guide SCC through this journey. Eaves wants to empower volunteers and

create a positive volunteer force. Eaves is also evaluating volunteer database software. Outreach - 2016 photo contest entries are on display at the conservation center. Judging sheets were added this year for the participants' benefit.

The weekend center host program at the conservation center was discontinued. Kiosks have been placed at McFarland to provide brochures and event information to the public. The kiosks have been well received and are being considered for Hickory Grove Park and Dakins Lake. Rack cards and a vertical display for events and displays were also created.

Eaves is working with Threshold Learning Center, Zearing, to offer campground activities at Dakins Lake and help campers interact with the community and with ACCESS to offer programs for their clients. Eaves is participating in the Healthy Living Coalition with Story County Quality of Life Alliance to help promote health benefits of being outside.

SCC's Facebook page is getting a lot of activity with an additional 599 "likes" since this time last year. A Go Pro camera has been purchased to provide videos of staff activities.

After Eaves studied site analytics and pathways people used on the website and MyCountyParks, a staff committee discussed improvements to the website. Eaves then made structural changes to Conservation's page to better serve SCC's users.

Over 1,800 copies of the Prairie Horizons newsletter were mailed out; 555 were delivered to organizations, and another 512 electronic versions were emailed. The newsletter also appears on the SCC website and Facebook page.

Board members thanked Eaves for her report and her important role in the success of SCC's outreach program.

10. **CONSIDER SECOND READING OF SCCB LAW ENFORCEMENT MANUAL MOTION** by Tedesco, **SECOND** by Franz, to approve second reading of revisions to the SCCB Law Enforcement Manual to include a section on mobile video recorders. MCU.
11. **CONSIDER CONTRACT BETWEEN IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MOTION** by Pease, **SECOND** by Weber, to approve a contract with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources establishing Story County Conservation as sponsor of the Skunk River Water Trail. MCU.
12. **CONSIDER CONTRACT BETWEEN FEH DESIGN AND STORY COUNTY FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING FEES FOR HICKORY GROVE PARK SHOWER BUILDING/STORM SHELTER**
Cox commented that this firm designed a comparable building at Woodbury County to the design planned for Hickory Grove. \$100,000 is budgeted in FY16 for the design, and another \$500,000 is budgeted in FY17 for construction.

MOTION by Tedesco, **SECOND** by Weber, to recommend approval of the contract between FEH and Story County to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION POLICY

Cox explained that the policy, based on the county's, sets up a pay scale and administration parameters for exempt employees. All positions have been reviewed, with new pay ranges comparable to other organizations. The pay scale will be adjusted each year for cost of living. Cox added that all Conservation positions (bargaining and non-bargaining) were adjusted similarly.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to approve the Story County Conservation Classification and Compensation Policy with formatting corrections. MCU.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Cox confirmed that annual evaluations will now be completed at the employee's anniversary date instead of January. Cox favors this change.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Weber, to approve the Story County Conservation Performance Management Policy. MCU.

15. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox thanked board members for handling extra work assignments and attending special meetings. Cox reported on the following:

- Cox and Supervisor Sanders are discussing how a robust buffer program could be implemented in Story County. Cox will explore options with NRCS and other incentive-based programs.
- Special Projects Ranger Williams will be retiring May 26. Details for a party/recognition are to be determined. Cox would like to delay replacing this ranger position and fill the new position for the ISU Research Park (budgeted for mid-year FY17) instead. The new park superintendent position will include law enforcement and project management and oversee operations and field staff. It will be advertised as soon as possible with a minimum salary of \$59,000.
- The IACCB newsletter is going from a weekly to monthly publication. Much of the information can now be found on the mycountyparks.com portal.
- Cox suggested presenting a certificate of appreciation to the City of Zearing for their support of the Dakins Lake Expansion Project. He will look at scheduling this in June.
- A request for proposals for design work at the ISU Research Park is completed and will be sent out soon. A pre-bid proposal meeting will be held for interested firms. Cox hopes to have a contract in place by the end of June.

16. BOARD REPORTS

- Meyers – Meyers and Director Cox met with the Colo City Council regarding the proposed sewer project at Hickory Grove Park and asked for the council's approval for SCC to tie into Colo's sewer system. Central Iowa Water Association will be giving a presentation to the city council on the project as well. Cox hopes that design and construction of the project can be completed in spring 2017.
- Tedesco – Rip rap has been placed behind the Workiva building at the ISU Research Park.

- Pease – Work at the ISU Research Park is moving forward. Tours were given to interested parties, and meetings were held to bring together a group to give advice on practices to install. The DOT has applied for their permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Pease stressed that baseline data is needed to show improvement in the stream and fishery. SCC also needs to be proactive in providing information to new lot owners and expectations for storm water management.
- Clinton - Clinton gave an update on the proposed bike trail between 190th Street and Gilbert school.

17. OTHER

Cox reported that engineering and floodplain permits for the Bakken Pipeline are pending; therefore, the need of an easement on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail is not known at this time. The board will set a meeting to discuss the pipeline in June.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.
Chair Meyers adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board