

Story County Conservation Board  
May 9, 2016  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

85668224. 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 – arrived 5:35

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

Amy Yoakum

Carol Williams

GUESTS

None

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Meyers suggested that the resolution of support for Carol Williams be moved ahead of the natural resource specialist's update.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 board meeting. MCU.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox noted that there are fluctuations in several line items but that the end of the fiscal year will be close to the amount budgeted. He added that revenue is lower than projected; however, not all the WIRB grant funds will be spent or reimbursed.

7. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Meyers reminded board members of Special Project Ranger Carol William's retirement celebration on May 26, the Natural Exposure workshop on June 4, and the next board meeting on June 13.

8. CONSIDER RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION RECOGNIZING CAROL WILLIAMS' SERVICE TO STORY COUNTY

Chair Meyers expressed the board's gratitude for all Williams' work during her 30 years with Story County Conservation.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve Resolution No. 2016-03 recognizing Carol Williams' service to Story County. MCU.

9. NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATE

Natural Resource Specialist Amy Yoakum gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting natural resource work accomplished in the past year.

Work on the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) grants are nearing completion. The saturated buffer is in, seeding has been completed, monitoring wells are being installed, and one more septic system needs to be upgraded. The NRS also managed ledgers and reports for the grant and facilitated watershed team meetings. An ISCO water sampler was installed in East Indian Creek along E57 in March for a Water Quality Improvement (WQI) grant. Grab samples will be taken periodically. An Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity grant has been completed to restore a prairie remnant at Dakins Lake. Yoakum showed before and after pictures of the area that was cleared.

A public meeting for the Hickory Grove Watershed project was hosted, and work continued on plans for the second phase of the project, including drawdown of the lake, gully assessment and monitoring, and addressing gullies outside the park.

Outreach activities included career fairs and working with several ISU student groups (Forestry, Restoration Ecology, College of Design and Landscape Architecture, and graduate classes). Presentations on the Wasp Watchers program were given to O.W.L.S. and the Ames Anglers. The NRS wrote several newsletter articles and gave radio interviews on Wasp Watchers, watershed projects, and Bloomington Cemetery. Facebook posts informed the public about National Invasive Species Awareness week.

Volunteer group projects included United Way Day of Caring, Nevada High School service day, and Eagle Scouts. Yoakum also worked with 13 school groups on service learning projects and participated in Service Enterprise volunteer training.

The NRS worked with Conservation Corps Iowa on several projects including invasive species removal at Hickory Grove, chainsaw training, and tree removal at Robison Wildlife Acres, and winter tree identification. A land stewardship intern was managed during the spring semester, and three conservation aides were supervised during the summer.

Yoakum managed research permit applications for SCC. In the past year, permits were issued for weasel fur traps, raccoon puzzle boxes, small mammal traps, and pheasant traps. Yoakum served as IACCB District I president in 2015 and is serving on the planning committee for the Iowa Invasive Species Conference. In the past year, she attended the Sustaining Our Land Conference, the Iowa Weed Commissioners Conference, Iowa Water Conference, and IOWATER training.

Current projects include the oxbow restoration and wetland enhancement at Jennett; C2C planning, emerald ash borer plan for HGP, planning for the ISU Research Park, helping staff and partner organizations with land acquisition projects, and serving on Conservation's bargaining team. The Wasp Watchers program is entering its second year; nesting colonies were found in six communities last summer. Goats will return to Robison Wildlife Acres this spring to help control invasive species.

Installation of the rain garden last year at Dakins Lake proved to be a challenge. Despite the need for initial watering followed by too much rain, Yoakum said the success rate of the 700 plugs planted is fairly good.

A breeding bird survey was done last year at Roland Wildlife Area. Yoakum was pleased

with the number of species found, including 23 breeding species. The survey will be repeated this summer for a good baseline. Work on the sensitive areas inventory will begin as soon as the contract with Wildland Ecological Services is approved.

The board thanked Amy for her presentation and for doing a great job managing multiple projects.

10. CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT OF CONSERVATION SEASONAL STAFF

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to approve employment of Story County Conservation seasonal staff for 2016 as presented. MCU.

11. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

Director Cox explained that Conservation is proposing to purchase the same type of body cameras the Sheriff's office is obtaining for their deputies. Data will be stored on the county's central server, and information can be downloaded at the conservation center or at either maintenance shop. Secondly, a Toughbooks computer is needed to replace a failed unit. Cox added that an amendment to the FY16 Conservation budget was requested to cover these additional costs.

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Pease, to approve purchase of three body cameras and one Toughbooks computer for Story County Conservation law enforcement staff. MCU.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF PHOTOCOPIER

Financial Data Manager Van Waus stated that details for purchase of a copier are not available at this time. This item will be tabled until the June meeting.

13. CONSIDER RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT STAMP GRANT APPLICATION

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve Resolution 2016-02 supporting a wildlife habitat stamp grant application to assist in purchasing the Ronald "Dick" Jordan Family Wildlife Area.

During discussion, Cox reported on funds pledged from several organizations towards this acquisition and added that SCC could dedicate some matching funds towards the grant.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve an amendment to the motion to include matching funds of \$10,000 from the Friends of Conservation Trust Fund. MCU.

Board members voted unanimously to approve the original motion.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REAP CEP GRANT PROPOSAL

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve a REAP-CEP grant proposal application for school pollinator gardens. MCU.

15. CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH WILDLAND ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR SENSITIVE AREAS INVENTORY, PHASE I

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Weber, to recommend approval of contract with Wildlife Ecological Services for Sensitive Areas Inventory, Phase I, to the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

16 . GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox reported that proposals have been solicited for design and engineering work at the ISU Research Park. Proposals are due May 18 with interviews scheduled for early June. Cox hopes to have a contract ready after the first of July.

The application deadline for the park superintendent position is May 22. Cox plans to schedule interviews after the Memorial Day holiday.

Cox and Tedesco attended the ISU Landscape Architecture 302 class, where students presented design proposals for the ISU Research Park.

17. BOARD REPORTS

Pease reported that he and Meyers attended the open house for the South Skunk River Water Trail Plan. Numerous landowners attended, and a lot of positive comments and offers to help were received.

18. OTHER

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that the board chair send a card of condolence to Mrs. Paul Toot. MCU. The board also discussed honoring Supervisor Toot with a memorial at one of Story County's parks at a later date. Clinton reported that decisions on filling the vacant board position have not been made at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.  
Chair Meyers adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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