

Story County Conservation Board
September 12, 2016
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

0. Chair Craig Meyers called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Nancy Franz – present

Allen Weber – absent

Ted Tedesco – present

Jim Pease – present

Wayne Clinton – present

STAFF

Ryan Wiemold

Jolene Van Waus

Luke Feilmeier

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

0. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

The chair reviewed the agenda and suggested that the Indian Creek Unit update and general updates follow the financial reports.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guest Mike Meetz was welcomed to the meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tedesco stated that he was present at this meeting.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2016 board meeting as corrected. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Regarding a question on OnCell fees, Financial Data Manager Van Waus verified that the amount shown is the annual cost. Parks Superintendent Wiemold added that the information provided to the public with the flexibility to make updates is worth the \$1,425 annual fee.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Meyers noted the upcoming IACCB conference, Jordan Acres open house, Trails Advisory Committee meeting, and Partners festival. The next board meeting is October 10, and Pease will be the presenter at the October O.W.L.S. program. Franz will be available by phone for the October meeting. Mike Meetz announced that Olav Smedal award nominations are due October 21.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve a contract with Keep Iowa Beautiful to Provide Professional Development Services for REAP education grant #17-08, "Planting the Seeds." MCU.

10. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2016-06 TO APPROVE A LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND GRANT AGREEMENT
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve Resolution #2016-06 approving an agreement between Story County Conservation and the Iowa Department of Transportation for a Living Roadway Trust Fund grant for \$2,040 to purchase a spray system upgrade. MCU.

11. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2016-07 TO APPROVE A LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND GRANT AGREEMENT
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to approve Resolution #2016-07 approving an agreement between Story County Conservation and the Iowa Department of Transportation for a Living Roadway Trust Fund grant for \$3,100 to purchase a cultipacker. MCU.

12. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2016-08 TO APPROVE A LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND GRANT AGREEMENT
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to approve Resolution #2016-08 approving an agreement between Story County Conservation and the Iowa Department of Transportation for a Living Roadway Trust Fund grant for \$880 to purchase wireless headsets. MCU.

Franz asked if safety policies will be updated for use of the wireless headsets. Wiemold said he will follow up on this.

13. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2016-09 TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE REGUFE STATUS AT HICKORY GROVE PARK FOR A CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNT
MOTION BY Pease, SECOND BY Tedesco, to approve Resolution #2016-09 temporarily suspending the refuge status at Hickory Grove Park for a controlled goose hunt for the period of October 1-9, 2016 and October 22, 2016- January 28, 2017. MCU.

14. INDIAN CREEK UNIT UPDATE
Park Ranger Luke Feilmeier gave an update on projects accomplished by the Indian Creek Unit staff during the last year.

Park improvements at Hickory Grove included:

- Trail expansion from the campground to Plover Bay
- Brush removal at guard rails
- Removal of creosote logs and replacement with treated 6x6s at picnic pads
- Construction of new life jacket shed on the beach
- Progress on emerald ash borer mitigation plan
 - Hazard/tree removal
 - Carvings from selected trees
 - Replacement trees (20) planted by Nevada Middle School students

Natural resource management tasks included:

- 103 acres of prescribed burns in the spring
- 18 acres of timber burns in the fall
- 5 acres of seeding at Jennett Heritage Area
- 55 acres of prairie restoration mowed
- A section of the HOINT was re-surfaced, and repairs were completed at the cattle crossing to prevent erosion on the north side of the trail

- Goose control efforts continued at Hickory Grove
 - Plastic fence and cannons were utilized to deter geese
 - 44 geese were harvested in 2016; 15 were harvested in 2016
- Wetland improvements and oxbow restoration were completed at Jennett Heritage Area

Projects in progress or planned for the upcoming year are:

- Bridge and steps replacement at Robison Wildlife Acres. The work is being done by a Conservation Corps Iowa crew in September.
- Continued trail expansion around Hickory Grove Park.
- Trick or Treat Night at Breezy Bay Campground on October 22
- Seeding (5 acres) at Jennett
- Solutions/options determined for sewer upgrade at Hickory Grove Park
- Shower house replacement at Hickory Grove Park. Currently working on electricity/water issues. Timeline is for bid letting in September, construction starting in late fall, and completion by April 1, 2017.
- Research and meetings for Hickory Grove Lake restoration project. The IDNR's timeline is for a drawdown of the lake in 2018-2019 for excavation and fisheries renovation, shoreline armoring, and installation of trails and jetties.
- A fish habitat grant proposal for the Hickory Grove outlet structure will be submitted this November.

Feilmeier added that he was on military leave as a member of the Governor's X shooting team as well as completing a service mission to the country of Moldova conducting civil engineering tasks. Both were unique experiences that taught Feilmeier new construction and leadership skills.

Board members thanked Feilmeier for his presentation and noted how much he has accomplished the past year.

15. GENERAL UPDATES

Parks Superintendent Wiemold reported on the following:

- The ISU Research Park property was acquired last week. Current construction was reviewed with Nate Easter, and the status of right-of-way work will be reviewed with the City of Ames. Field staff will visit the site next week to view fields and temporary seeding.
- The residence at the research park (2919 S. Riverside Drive) was inspected. A water leak and mold were discovered in the wall between the two bathrooms. Water is also coming in by the foundation. New carpet was installed last week in the living room and sun room. Staff is moving forward with in-house repairs, including painting.
- The pit toilet at the primitive campground at Dakins Lake is planned for October. Most of the installation work will be done by staff.
- Wiemold met with the assistant county engineer and a bridge inspector regarding repairs on the Bear Creek bridge. A tree fell on the bridge during a storm earlier this summer, breaking one of the cables and resulting in closure of the bridge and re-routing of the trail. Wiemold reported that the bridge is repairable, but several large trees must be removed first. A contractor will be required to determine options for removal of the trees. Wiemold added that the bridge is very popular with trail users.
- All staff attending quarterly safety training on September hosted by IRVM staff at

vegetation base in rural Nevada. Staff received updates on the IRVM program and equipment, the volunteer program, and spent the afternoon in team building activities.

- Four staff participated in the United Way Day of Caring by helping with landscaping at several YSS properties. Wiemold explained that SCC has been a host the past several years and decided to give back this year. He hopes for a larger staff presence next year.

16. BOARD REPORTS

Franz has been hiking on a lot of SCC's trails. Except for a few signage issues, she reported that the trails are in pretty good shape. She inquired about potential changes to SCC's insect repellent application policies due to news reports on several insect viruses.

Tedesco commented on a successful employee appreciation day. It was a beautiful day, and the Taylors offered to make the site available every year. Also, Tedesco brought up the need to identify transgender bathrooms and SCC public areas. Wiemold said that any new restroom designs will incorporate this need by offering family restrooms.

Pease met with ISU NREM faculty members who will be working with students to start stream sampling at the ISU Research Park this fall. He thought the board might be interested in providing some funding for this project. Meyers, Cox, and Pease attended the implementation meeting for the C2C Plan last week. The matrix was reviewed, and next steps are working on short-term projects. Pease added that surveys of sensitive areas need to be shared with other county departments and agencies.

Clinton complimented staff on the appearance of facilities. He was pleased with staff input at a recent safety spot check by IWCA and that no safety issues were found.

17. OTHER

Wiemold reported on a break in at the McFarland shop last week. The overhead door opener was obtained by breaking windows of a pickup parked outside. Before the shop alarm was triggered, the perpetrators stole the pickup containing tools and equipment. The pickup and some items were recovered the next day, and the sheriff's office is investigating. Wiemold said several changes have been put in place to improve security, including the addition of lock boxes for vehicle keys and door openers, increased video monitoring, and padlocking equipment left outside.

The SCC Strategic Plan was distributed to the board for review. Van Waus announced that staff will be reviewing the plan as well, and Director Cox will be sending those comments to the board in preparation of re-affirmation at the October 10 board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.
Chair Meyers adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.