

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

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Nancy Franz – present

Ted Tedesco – present

Jim Pease – present

Rick Sanders - present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

John Pohlman

Cindy Hildebrand

Allen Weber

Joanie Tedesco

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Pohlman was in attendance representing the Outdoor Alliance of Story County. Cindy Hildebrand stated she was concerned about a proposed subdivision near Huxley and appreciated that Director Cox expressed similar concerns to Story County Planning and Zoning. Hildebrand offered to provide additional information or answer the board's questions prior to a public hearing on January 31.

Chair Meyers presented a wildlife print to past board member Allen Weber as a token of appreciation for Weber's five-year tenure on the board.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, nominating Franz as chair. Tedesco moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Franz. MCU.

Meyers turned the gavel over to Franz, who chaired the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers nominating Pease as vice-chair. MCU. Tedesco moved that all nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Pease.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, nominating Meyers as secretary. Tedesco moved that all nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Meyers. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2016 board meeting. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

There were additions to the reports in the board packet.

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9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tedesco added that the ISU RP review committee is meeting on January 16. Open houses for public comments on the design of the greenbelt park will be held on January 31.

10. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2017-01 NAMING THE ISU RESEARCH PARK GREENBELT PARK

Meyers announced that due to Ted Tedesco's long and illustrious service to Story County Conservation and to the community, the board proposes that the ISU Research Park greenbelt park be named in honor of Tedesco. Franz read the proposed resolution in its entirety for board members and guests.

Motion by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve Resolution #2017-01 naming the ISU Research Park the Tedesco Environmental Learning Center. Ayes: Meyers, Franz, Pease. Abstaining: Tedesco. Motion carried.

Director Cox added that it is a pleasure to name the park in recognition of Tedesco. Tedesco thanked board members for this recognition and said he has learned a lot serving on the board and is proud of the work the board has accomplished.

11. CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT OF DUSTIN HORNE

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve employment of Dustin Horne, conservation technician, effective January 10, 2017. MCU.

12. CONSIDER LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AGREEMENT

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a law enforcement training agreement between the Story County Conservation Board and Daniel Simcox. MCU.

Cox added that the ILEA graduation ceremony is April 14. If board members are interested in attending, they should contact Cox.

13. CONSIDER 28E AGREEMENT WITH IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ISU RESEARCH PARK

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the agreement and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

14. CONSIDER COMMITMENT OF FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF RONALD 'DICK' JORDAN FAMILY WILDLIFE AREA

Director Cox distributed a pie chart showing funds raised to date for the \$847,000 project. Donations have been received or are pledged from several Pheasants Forever chapters, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Danfoss, and numerous individuals. In order for the state to execute a \$307,000 habitat stamp grant awarded by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources towards this land acquisition, Story County Conservation must guarantee the remaining \$24,508.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve commitment of funds to guarantee acquisition of Ronald "Dick" Jordan Family Wildlife Area and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

15. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2017-2 - WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

Following discussion at the December 2016 meeting, Director Cox brought forth a resolution encouraging the City of Ames to consider watershed measures.

MOTION BY Pease, SECOND BY Tedesco, to approve Resolution #2017-2. MCU.

16. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR WATERSHED ASSESSMENTS IN STORY COUNTY

Cox explained that he and Special Projects Director Leanne Harter will present a request for proposals to the board of supervisors at their January 17 meeting. As many of the watersheds as possible in the county would be included in the assessments, focusing on HUC 12's. Cox added that these assessments will help prepare the county to receive water quality funding. According to the project's timeline, a contract would be in place by the end of March 2017.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve a request for proposals for watershed assessments in Story County and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

17. INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Roadside Management Biologist Joe Kooiker reported on the IRVM program's accomplishments the past year. Highlights included a successful seed harvest totaling 2,500 bulk pounds of seed, increased revenue from seed drill rentals, and the purchase of a new pickup. Almost 70 sites were planted for the road department, a contractor was hired to spray brush, and drainage district brush piles were cleaned up. Assistance from volunteers included two seed harvests, equipment repairs, and a 4-H workday.

Weed commissioner duties increased in 2016 with numerous calls from the public—especially after an article about wild parsnip. Roadside spraying may be increased in 2017 utilizing a second spray unit. Cutting trees and brush in drainage district continues throughout the year as weather conditions allow. Kooiker noted that roadside encroachment along crop fields continues to be a problem.

Staff spoke at the ISAC fall workshop, met with three other counties to share information on IRVM programs, and hosted an all-staff meeting at the vegetation management shop.

Kooiker demonstrated a wireless headset used by hydroseeder operators and showed photos of new equipment (ditch spade and cultipacker) purchased through Living Roadway Trust Fund grants in 2016. A seed mixer, a low-profile UTV, and 20 acres of seed have been requested from the LRTF in 2017. The IDOT is planning to conduct research on invasive plants and has contacted Story County to assist in this project.

Kooiker said projects for the coming year include finding volunteers to work on equipment and researching proper masks for staff hydroseeding, cleaning seed, and burning. Kooiker added that he is concerned about lack of basic knowledge exhibited by seasonal staff and the need for increased training and supervision.

The board thanked Kooiker for his informative report.

18. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox shared the following updates:

- Story County Conservation now has a seat on the county's economic development group. Supervisor Sanders added that this group represents about 10 municipalities and distributes money among cities that attend meetings and share economic development opportunities. Sanders added that the group re-formalized itself this year, and the board of supervisors felt it was important that Conservation be part this group. Cox distributed an email regarding the next meeting on January 25, which he plans to attend. Board members or staff interested in attending should contact Cox.
- Cox participated in a teleconference today with Iowa DNR staff regarding planned improvements to Hickory Grove Lake. The DNR will manage the Hickory Grove Shoreline Stabilization project to be completed in three years. Initial shoreline stabilization will occur this year, followed by a drawdown of the lake, archeological surveys, dredging of the lake, and additional shoreline work. The project will cost \$19 million, and Story County will fund 25 percent. As a result, the FY17 budget expense will be re-estimated at \$25,000, FY18 budget expense request will be \$125,000, and FY19 anticipated expense will be \$125,000. The board discussed the need for a public meeting, removal of fish prior to dredging, reduced camping revenue, and possible effects on the sewer project at the park. Cox said decisions on a control structure device and dredge method (wet vs. dry) will be made after the engineering phase of the project.
- The ISU Research Park house at 2809 South Riverside Drive is receiving repairs and updates including paint, new carpet, and cleaning. Options for the house include using as a park ranger residence, renting to a staff member, or making it available for temporary work crews (i.e. Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps). Cox said he is leaning towards staff housing, but more discussion needs to occur before making a decision.
- Cox distributed a preliminary map of areas in the county that would be appropriate for wetland mitigation. The Iowa Agricultural Mitigation Bank has reached out to a land-owner about purchasing 20 acres. Cox will keep the board posted as developments occur.
- Cox distributed his response to Story County Planning and Zoning re: the proposed Iron Bridge development near Huxley. Cox added that a portion of the property is identified as a natural resource area in the Story County's comprehensive plan. Planning and Zoning recommended denial of the request.

19. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz – Franz reminded board members of the budget worksession with the board of supervisors on January 10 at 1:30. Franz thanked Meyers for a great year as board chair and reported she has been recruiting candidates for the vacant board seat.
- Tedesco – Tedesco commented on a recent Des Moines Register article featuring Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation President Joe McGovern. He also inquired on progress of the Army Corps project.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU.
Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation Board

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