

Story County Conservation Board  
May 8, 2017  
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

0. Chair Nancy Franz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL**  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Franz, Jim Pease, Craig Meyers, Ted Tedesco, Christine Laumer, Rick Sanders  
STAFF: Mike Cox, Jolene Van Waus, Amy Yoakum, Ryan Wiemold  
GUESTS: Ruth and Loren Book, Mike Meetz, Eliana Hornbuckle, Jalene Miller-Hornbuckle, Brian Hornbuckle, Doug and Brooksie Miller, Bryan Miller, Missy Miller, Jarrett Miller, Lisa Taylor, Madeline Taylor, and Jaye Stefani.
0. **ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBER**  
Nancy Franz administered the oath of office to Christine Laumer and welcomed her to the board. Laumer said she grew up in northwest Iowa, attended Iowa State University, and works in fundraising for ISU. She added that she has always had an interest in conservation and is happy to serve on the Story County Conservation Board.
0. **REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS** - There were no additions to the agenda.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
Ruth Book of Nevada presented awards to winners of the first Bill Horine Outdoor Writing Contest to Jarrett Miller, Ballard High School (3<sup>rd</sup> place); Eliana Hornbuckle, Nevada High School (2<sup>nd</sup> place); and Madeline Taylor, Ames High School (1<sup>st</sup> place). Book thanked the Story County Conservation Board and committee members Jaye Stefani and Linda Zaletel for their support of the contest honoring founding board member Horine and his dedication to writing about the outdoors.  
  
Mike Meetz expressed his appreciation for the use of SCC supplies in teaching hunter education classes and also for the recent volunteer recognition dinner. Meetz announced that the county REAP committee will be meeting soon to set dates to review grant applications.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2017 board meeting. MCU.
7. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS**  
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.
8. **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES**  
Cox reported that FY17 budget amendments will be considered at the May 9 board of supervisors meeting. Conservation's request includes additional funds needed for the ISU Research Park houses, Heart of Iowa Nature Trail culvert repairs, and Ketelsen Marsh tile repairs. No significant changes are requested in the IRVM budget.

9. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Chair Franz noted a variety of events on the schedule. Date changes for the June and July board meetings will be discussed at tonight's meeting.

10. CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FOR PRAERI RAIL TRAIL EXTENSION DESIGN

After significant delays due to problems with the route through Zearing, Cox said the project is back on schedule for a September 19 bid letting through the Iowa Department of Transportation. Preliminary plans were submitted to the IDOT, and Cox will be attending the Zearing Council meeting tonight to give an update on the project.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve an amendment to the agreement for Praeri Rail Extension design between Shive Hattery and Story County for \$8,600 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

11. CONSIDER CONTRACT BETWEEN BOTANICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONSULTING AND STORY COUNTY

Cox explained that this contract will complete Phase II of the sensitive areas inventory. The review team was pleased with the four proposals submitted and recommended that the contract be awarded to botanists Tom Rosburg and Bill Norris. Natural Resource Specialist Yoakum will schedule a public meeting to share information about the project with landowners.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve a contract between Botanical and Ecological Consulting and Story County Conservation for \$57,875 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

12. CONSIDER PROPOSED EASEMENT WITH LOREN AND NANCY DONALDSON

Cox showed the location of the proposed easement adjacent to the Gladly Leui Preserve. The owners are interested in setting their property aside as a conservation easement—subject to approval by Story County Planning and Development. Board members were agreeable to the proposal as long as parameters for sensitive areas are met.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the concept and authorize staff to develop a conservation easement for further review. MCU.

13. CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DANNY SIMCOX AS STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION PEACE OFFICER

Daniel Simcox read the oath for appointment as a peace officer for Story County Conservation.

MOTION by, Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to appoint Danny Simcox as a Story County Conservation Peace Officer. MCU. Board members congratulated Simcox on his appointment as well as his award for the highest academic score during his training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

14. CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT OF PATRICK SHEHAN, SPECIAL PROJECTS RANGER

Parks Superintendent Wiemold announced that Shehan is currently a park ranger at Webster County Conservation. Shehan has served as president of the County Conservation Peace

Officers organization and as district chair for the state's fish habitat review committee. He is an ISU graduate and brings a breadth of knowledge and experience to Story County.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve employment of Patrick Shehan as special projects ranger effective May 22, 2017 at a salary of \$23.35/hour. MCU.

15. CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT OF SEASONAL STAFF

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve employment of Ashley Bozman, Melody Gerver, Zach Jamison, Cierra Johannes, Hannah Kroeger, Katelyn Moore, Dakota Popp, and Alec Sutton effective the dates of May 9-June 3, 2017. MCU.

Sanders recommended reviewing seasonal staff wages during the FY19 budget process. Wiemold and Simcox stated that SCC's wages are similar to other conservation agencies and added that SCC strives to provide a well-rounded experience to summer employees—which encourages workers to return for multiple years.

16. CONSIDER MERIT ADJUSTMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to approve merit adjustments for the following management staff: Michael Cox (\$3,246.10 biweekly); Joseph Kooiker (\$2,048.34 biweekly); and Ryan Wiemold (\$2,377.56 biweekly) effective May 28, 2017. MCU.

17. CONSIDER WATER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT GRANT AGREEMENT #17-01

Cox stated that improvements are needed at many Story County river accesses, but priority was given to Peterson Park and Askew Bridge. DNR funding is not available next year, so the timing of this grant award is important to SCC.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve Water Trail Development Grant Agreement #17-01 FOR \$22,414 between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Story County Conservation for Access Improvements at Peterson Park and Askew Bridge and recommend approval by the Story County of Board of Supervisors. MCU.

18. CONSIDER IOWA BUTTERFLY FLYWAY PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT AT RONALD "DICK" JORDAN FAMILY WILDLIFE AREA

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, to approve a grant agreement for \$9,000 between the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Story County Conservation to purchase seed for the Ronald "Dick" Jordan Family Wildlife Area. MCU.

19. CONSIDER IOWA BUTTERFLY FLYWAY PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GREENBELT PARK

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a grant agreement for \$9,000 between the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Story County Conservation to purchase seed for the Iowa State University Research Greenbelt Park. MCU.

20. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL BENCH ALONG HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve placement of a bench along the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail in memory of Jim McCasland. MCU.

21. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN  
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the Story County Conservation Board Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan. MCU.

22. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FY16 ANNUAL REPORT  
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the Story County Conservation Board FY16 Annual Report. MCU.

23. NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM UPDATE  
Natural Resource Specialist Amy Yoakum shared natural resource program accomplishments over the past year—several of which were the first in the county and/or the state: natural areas inventory work, Wasp Watchers program, Iowa Invasive Species Conference, Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor Planning, preserving prairie remnants in cemeteries, and service enterprise committee work.

In reference to invasive species problems in the county, Yoakum distributed maps showing the location of Japanese Hops along West Indian Creek south of Robison Acres and a serious infestation of Oriental Bittersweet near Christiansen Forest Preserve. Control and/or eradication of both species will take a lot of coordination with private landowners, and Yoakum is researching possible action plans and partnerships with other agencies. Goats may also be used at Christiansen Forest Preserve to control the bittersweet.

Yoakum said it is becoming difficult to do things well without staff throughout the year. While Conservation does a good job of sharing staff, Yoakum said she would like to have a team she could count on daily to help the natural resources program grow. Board members reminded Yoakum of her successes and all that she has accomplished in the last five years. They suggested that she start fleshing out her needs—perhaps utilizing ISU students.

24. GENERAL UPDATES  
Parks Superintendent Wiemold reported that construction on the Hickory Grove campground showerhouse is progressing after a delay in the arrival of materials. The contractor is working overtime to have the building completed by Memorial Day weekend. The spring Partners festival was attended by over 350 people. A re-dedication of the Touch-A-Life Trail and the dedication of the natural playscape were part of the festivities, and visitors also enjoyed canoeing and listening to the live band.

Due to scheduling of bid review, letting, and contract award for Phase I of the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor development, the board discussed timing of the June and July board meetings. The June board meeting was moved to June 12, and the July meeting was moved to July 17. The September board meeting was also rescheduled to the 12<sup>th</sup> to ensure a quorum.

25. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz
  - A TEAM day at Robison Wildlife Acres was held last week. Ten people came despite the rain, and Franz said that Russ DeWall did a good job in leading his first workday.

- The next TEAM Day is May 20 at the Brotherson property.
- Franz and Cox are offering a two-part grant writing workshop on May 31 and June 9.
- Tedesco
  - The Ames Noon Rotary Club has pledged to support the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor by purchasing a large portion of the trees, planting them, and watering the trees for two years! Tedesco was also happy to report that 2,000 tons of river rock for the project has been discovered in Hardin County. Tedesco suggested meeting with Ames city staff regarding plans for the western portion of TELC.
  - SCC is participating in ISU OLLI courses this fall, offering an overview of Story County Conservation and its properties.
  - The Ames Fishing Club has received reports that cuts to Iowa DNR funding will affect fish stocking and license fees.
- Sanders
  - The county attorney and Sanders participated in a conference call with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the county's requested land transfer. Although Sanders didn't see the progress he anticipated, it appears that the Corps is willing to move forward with an agreement. Sanders added that new Corps staff are involved, and he said it will be a long process.
- Meyers
  - After attending the Colo City Council meeting last week, Meyers was encouraged that a long-term solution can be reached for the Hickory Grove Park sewer project.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Story County Conservation Board