

Story County Conservation Board
June 12, 2017
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Chair Nancy Franz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Nancy Franz – present

Jim Pease – absent

Craig Meyers – absent

Ted Tedesco – present

Christine Laumer - present

Rick Sanders - present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

Ryan Wiemold

Patrick Shehan

GUESTS

George Antoniou

Michelle Balmer

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Franz suggested that the report on the Hickory Grove stabilization project be moved ahead of the action items.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2017 board meeting. MCU.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Cox reported that Conservation's operating expense budget should have approximately \$15,000 remaining at the end of the fiscal year.

7. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The chair reviewed the list of upcoming events.

8. HICKORY GROVE SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT

George Antoniou and Michelle Balmer, Iowa DNR Lake Restoration Program staff, gave background on the watershed improvement project at Hickory Grove, which DNR engineering staff has developed as a cooperative agreement. Antoniou shared a handout summarizing the project's progress to date.

Phase 1 of the project (anticipated cost of \$100,000), which includes shoreline armoring and work on gully structures, will be let for bid this July with completion planned for late fall 2017. The lake will be drawn down in spring 2018 during Phase 2 (\$500,000). Antoniou explained that installation of a drawdown structure in this phase will allow access to the lake bottom for dredging, expansion of jetties, renovation of fish habitat, and management of lake levels in the future.

Cox expressed the staff and board's appreciation to the DNR for their support in moving this project forward. He reminded the board that Story County is responsible for 25% of the project cost, which will total \$150,000 in FY18.

Antoniou said the agreement will be presented for approval at the DNR's Natural Resource Commission meeting on August 10. Antoniou and Balmer offered to help with a public meeting in the fall to help publicize the project and answer questions.

9. CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK SHEHAN AS STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION PEACE OFFICER

Patrick Shehan recited the oath for appointment as a peace officer for Story County Conservation. Cox commented that Shehan has a tremendous reputation in the county conservation system, and he will be an asset to Story County.

MOTION by, Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to appoint Patrick Shehan as a Story County Conservation Peace Officer. MCU. Board members and staff congratulated Shehan on his appointment.

10. CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2017-02 APPROVING FY18 SALARIES

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve Resolution #2017-02 setting FY18 salaries for Story County Conservation employees. Roll call vote: Ayes: Laumer, Tedesco, Franz. Nays: None. Absent: Pease, Meyers. Motion carried.

11. CONSIDER PROPOSED FY18 STEP AND LONGEVITY ADJUSTMENTS

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve FY18 step and longevity salary adjustments for Story County Conservation employees. MCU.

Cox reported that the county has hired Springsted to review the compensation plan. Adjustments were made as needed to bring all employees above the minimum range in each pay grade. Sanders added that minimum-to-maximum ranges were compressed. He was happy with report and asked Chair Franz for her input as well.

Summer staff wages will be reviewed before advertising for 2018 positions. Board members and the director feel salaries may need to be adjusted to remain competitive with private employers.

12. CONSIDER ADJUSTED SALARIES FOR IRVM SEASONAL STAFF

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve adjusted hourly rates for IRVM seasonal staff Megan Dohrman @ \$11.75/hour and Drew Phillips @ \$11.25/hour. MCU.

13. CONSIDER STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE POLICY

Sanders discovered that the latest version of the policy was not the one submitted for review. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to table this item for the July meeting. MCU.

14. CONSIDER PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL TREES AT MCFARLAND PARK

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the placement of two trees at McFarland Park in memory of Wesley M. Shubert and John and Savilla Shubert. MCU.

15. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF UNBUDGETED ITEMS IN FY17 BUDGET
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the purchase of 1) an electronic control device for the special projects ranger (\$1,035.39) and 2) a water heater for the Hickory Grove shop (\$3,650) with remaining funds in the FY17 budget. MCU.

16. CONSIDER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE IOWA DNR AND STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION FOR A CREEL CLERK
MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve Cooperative Agreement #17CRDLWMBALM-0011 between the Iowa DNR and Story County Conservation for \$3,000 effective June 30, 2017-October 30, 2017 for a creel clerk at Hickory Grove Lake and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

Cox said that even with plans to draw the lake down for shoreline improvements, baseline and economic data, as well as direct creel data, will be valuable.

17. CONSIDER CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH WOODRUFF CONSTRUCTION LLF FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE HICKORY GROVE SHOWERHOUSE/STORM SHELTER
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve Change Order #1 to a contract with Woodruff Construction LLC for \$14,621 for construction of the Hickory Grove Showerhouse/Storm Shelter and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

Parks Superintendent Wiemold explained that an electrical line to the west side of the campground was not included in the contract. Items on the punch list still need to be completed, and the building will be closed until June 16 for completion of the flooring.

18. CONSIDER CHANGE ORDER TO CONTRACT WITH UBBEN TILING INC. FOR TILE REPLACEMENT AT KETELSEN MARSH
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve a change order for \$12,750 to a contract with Ubben Tiling Inc. for tile replacement at Ketelsen Marsh and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

Cox remarked that the original contract for tile repairs was \$21,000. Another tile line from the northwest side of the marsh was located. Additional repairs are necessary to allow functional lines from outside landowners, which will improve the marsh.

19. CONSIDER PROPOSED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND FORM OF CONTRACT FOR PHASE I, TEDESCO ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CORRIDOR
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract for Phase I, Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor development and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

20. CONSIDER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE IOWA DNR AND STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION TO RESTORE THE RIVERBANK AT WEST PETERSON PARK
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve Cooperative Agreement #17CRDLWBGSHEA-0005 between the Iowa DNR and Story County Conservation for \$12,000 effective June 12, 2017-March 30, 2018 to restore the riverbank at West Peterson Park and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

Cox clarified that the land connection between the pits is getting narrower; this project will help prevent the Skunk River from breaching the west pit. Cox said additional work might need to be done in future years.

21. CONSIDER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRAIRIE RIVERS OF IOWA AND STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION FOR WATERSHED SIGNAGE
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve a cooperative agreement between Prairie Rivers of Iowa and Story County Conservation for design and coordination of watershed signage for \$6,500, effective June 30, 2017-November 30, 2017 and recommend approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.

Cox reminded the board that watershed signage is identified in SCC's strategic plan and Story County's C2C plan to increase the public's knowledge of watersheds. This contract gives Prairie Rivers the resources to plan and develop the signs; purchase of the signs will occur after legal review, design work, etc. Cox added that the signs will be placed on secondary roads at entry points to HUC 10 watersheds.

22. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox will attend tonight's Zearing City Council meeting to discuss progress on the Praeri Rail Trail extension across Highway 65 to Center Street in Zearing. Design issues are being finalized, and bid letting for the project is planned for October. A purchase agreement with the railroad is still pending, and easement drafts are in the review process.

Funding pledges towards the Jordan Wildlife Area acquisition have been secured. Cox is waiting for confirmation regarding NAWCA funds. The oxbow restoration is in progress, and lots of topsoil is finding a new home. Transfer of the property should occur in the fall.

Funding for the Carroll Prairie acquisition is going well with approximately \$56,000 left to raise.

Story County will host the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards conference in 2020. Cox and Franz met with the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau, which has agreed to handle registration, giveaways, and marketing.

Forty people attended last week's public meeting which provided information on the sensitive areas inventory. Letters were mailed to 670 landowners in a 5,000-acre target area, and many positive responses have been received via phone calls and emails. Dr. Tom Rosburg has already contacted some landowners, and he invited board members and staff to accompany him to see the process first hand.

Staff is starting to conduct water quality monitoring. Volunteers—specifically master river stewards participants—may also assist. Environmental Education Coordinator Keys is working on a plan to implement testing and staff training.

Franz conducted a two-part training session on grant writing with select Conservation and Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff.

23. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz asked about plans for a staff appreciation day. Director Cox will follow up with the Taylors regarding availability of their location in August. An intern will be job shadowing Natural Resource Specialist Yoakum starting in July.
- Tedesco said he is pleased with plans for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. He noted that algae is starting to bloom and asked about treatment at Dakins Lake—which Parks Superintendent Wiemold said will be treated late in the season. Tedesco also inquired about the new format of the *Prairie Horizons* newsletter and congratulated staff on their participation in the Give Back Iowa Challenge.
- Sanders announced that Outreach and Special Projects Manager Leanne Harter would like to place signage on Story County roads that normally flood. He would like to see coordination of that project with watershed signing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.
Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation Board