

Story County Conservation Board
July 17, 2017
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Vice-Chair Jim Pease called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Nancy Franz – absent	Mike Cox	John Pohlman
Jim Pease – present	Jolene Van Waus	
Craig Meyers – present		
Ted Tedesco – absent		
Christine Laumer - present		
Rick Sanders - present		
3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS - There were no changes to the agenda.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Pohlman inquired about the campground attendant contract and if that person was authorized to carry a handgun. Director Cox said there is nothing stated in the current contract and that state law would allow the campground attendant to carry with a permit.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2017 board meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox reported that FY17 operating expenses and revenue were both within \$5,000 of year-end budget projections.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Pease noted nature camps, prairie walks, paddle boarding programs, and the August 7 board meeting. The IACCB fall conference is September 21-23; Tedesco, Laumer, Meyers, and Cox are planning to attend.
9. CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT AND ADJUSTED SALARIES FOR SEASONAL STAFF

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve employment of Nathan Mead, vegetation management intern, effective July 12, 2017 @ \$11.00/hour and adjusted hourly rates for Ashley Bozman @ \$10.75/hour and Hannah Kroeger @ \$10.75/hour effective July 9, 2017. MCU.
10. CONSIDER VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE POLICY

Cox commented that the proposed SCC policy is adapted from the county's policy. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the Story County Conservation Violence in the Workplace Policy. MCU.

Aug-1

11. CONSIDER FIRST READING OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Cox stated that this is another Story County policy adapted for Conservation. Additions and proposed changes were reviewed and accepted by the Story County Human Resources staff.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the first reading of the Story County Conservation Employee Handbook. MCU.

12. CONSIDER STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

Director Cox explained that Human Resources Officer Alissa Wignall assisted the Conservation department in finding and adapting a program that will protect employees who complete specific tasks (filling the hydroseeder, spray painting, and applying certain chemicals). Staff required to do these tasks must undergo a medical fitness evaluation and be fitted with a respirator. Designated staff for any or all the tasks, continued medical fitness, designation of medical staff to do the testing and budget considerations need to be determined.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve the Story County Conservation Respiratory Protection Program. MCU.

13. CONSIDER RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PRAIRIE RIVERS OF IOWA AS THE OFFICIAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION FOR STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION

Cox commented that the proposed resolution recognizes Prairie Rivers for its role in watershed assessment, advocacy, awareness, and education. He added that the resolution is a way of thanking PRI and does not relieve SCC of its responsibilities or authority.

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Meyers, to approve Resolution #2017-3 recognizing Prairie Rivers of Iowa as the official watershed management organization for Story County Conservation. MCU.

14. CONSIDER DAKINS LAKE CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT CONTRACT

Cox reported that Beverley Chance, a Zearing resident and regular camper at Dakins Lake, has been selected to fill the campground attendant position for the rest of the 2017 season.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to approve a campground attendant contract at Dakins Lake with Beverley Chance effective July 19 - October 29, 2017, at \$240.00/week. MCU.

15. CONSIDER BIDS FOR TEDESCO ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CORRIDOR, BID PACKAGE #1

Pease said he was pleased to see bids come in under the engineer's estimates. Sanders added that PCI is a long-standing company and is already mobilized for another project in the area. Referring to problems with seeding during the construction of Ada Hayden Heritage Area, Director Cox assured the board that SCC—not the contractor—is responsible for the permanent seeding. Following approval of the bid award by the board of supervisors, Sanders estimated that the contract would be finalized in a couple of weeks.

Aug-2

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that they award a contract to Peterson Contractors, Inc. for \$810,379.50 for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, Bid Package #1 – Stream Restoration. MCU.

16. CONSIDER PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL TREE AND BENCH AT HICKORY GROVE PARK

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Meyers, to approve placement of a tree and bench at Hickory Grove Park in memory of Dorothy Lewis. MCU.

Sanders asked that the Story County Treasurer's staff be invited to attend a dedication of the bench in memory of their co-worker.

17. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox gave updates on the following:

- C2C Plan. A schedule of the annual review process was provided by Leanne Harter, who will give a report at the September 18 board meeting. Cox said last year's survey will be repeated along with a review of the goals, strategies, and elements of the plan.
- Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. Discussions are continuing with McFarland Clinic regarding the potential use of ISU Research Property for a solar array. A specific area and design plans are not finalized. Board members agreed that a solar array would be a good demonstration project if it complements SCC's plans.
- Legislators reception. Cox spoke with Greg Vitale, Outdoor Alliance of Story County, about scheduling a legislators reception in November or December 2017. Cox asked board members to suggest possible dates. Sanders said it would also be appropriate to participate in the annual Ames/Story County Day at the legislature.
- Dakins Lake cabins. Cox received an inquiry about the status of the cabins. He explained to the caller that funds are reserved for the TELC project and, secondarily, the cabin(s). Cox said there may be more questions and asked the board to think about timing of the cabin project.
- Special Projects Ranger Shehan is working on a REAP grant proposal for Phase II of TELC. Cox added that the county REAP committee will be meeting soon to review city applications.
- SCC Strategic Plan. Cox shared a timeline for review of the strategic plan. He would like to complete a more thorough review of the plan this year and make changes prior to FY19 budget planning. Franz has volunteered to spearhead this effort.
- Annual report. Cox asked board members to give input to him or Financial Data Manager Van Waus on content/format changes to the annual report. Plans are to have the FY17 report finalized for approval at the October board meeting.
- Praeri Rail Trail Extension. The Zearing City Council is in support of the project. Easements are needed from Key Cooperative and Zearing Fertilizer, and purchase of property from the railroad is still pending. The IDOT's fall bid letting deadline has passed, so bid letting is now planned for late winter.

18. BOARD REPORTS

Pease has been assisting with efforts to develop a DNR brochure for the Skunk River Water Trail. A dedication event for the water trail is planned for the fall. Pease attended a Watershed Management Authority meeting for Keigley Creek. He said he was impressed


with the project and the watershed outreach coordinator. Pease also discussed priority areas for the sensitive areas inventory with Bill Norris, one of the project's researchers.

Meyers reported that he spoke with Supervisor Chitty and received an update on the proposed sewer connection from Hickory Grove Park to Colo.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Laumer, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.
Vice-Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation Board

Aug-4