

Story County Conservation Board
August 7, 2017
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. Vice-Chair Jim Pease called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

| MEMBERS | STAFF | GUESTS |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Nancy Franz – present via phone | Mike Cox | Mike Meetz |
| Jim Pease – present | Jolene Van Waus | Ann Oberhouser |
| Craig Meyers – present | | Mike Webber |
| Ted Tedesco – present | | Lee Huey |
| Christine Laumer – present | | Les Carlsborg |
| Rick Sanders – present | | |

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
There were no changes to the agenda.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Oberhouser, a new Ames resident, stated she was here to observe. Meetz, chair of the county REAP committee, said he would give a report later in the meeting. The other guests were interested in the Hickory Grove shoreline stabilization project and how it would affect fishing.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2017 board meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES
The director and board members noted several budgeted projects currently in progress or already completed early in the fiscal year.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
Vice-chair Pease reviewed the calendar of events, noting that Franz will be giving the September O.W.L.S. presentation.

9. CONSIDER SECOND READING OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK
The board reviewed changes from the first reading last month and noted spacing and typographical errors. Meyers questioned if there is a minimum increment of time that employees may use for time off. Sanders said .25 hours is the minimum currently utilized; he will review the county's procedures to verify that increment.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve a second reading of the SCC Employee Handbook as amended. MCU.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE APPROVED FEE-FOR-SERVICE WORK ORDER WITH CONSERVATION CORPS MINNESOTA & IOWA
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to acknowledge a fee-for-service work order with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa already approved by the Story County Board of Supervisors. MCU.
11. CONSIDER PURCHASE LICENSING FOR MOBILE COMMAND TERMINAL
MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve the purchase of mobile command terminal software license for one law enforcement laptop at a cost of \$1,265. MCU.
12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REAP GRANT APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TEDESCO ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CORRIDOR
Cox explained that the board received a rough draft of a grant application to request funds for approximately 30% (\$426,000) of phase 2 development of the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor.

The board discussed the proposal and suggested highlighting the partnerships and collaborations with other entities involved in the project. Franz also offered to edit the final version of the application.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer, to approve submission of a REAP grant application for development of the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, Phase 2, with suggested changes and to authorize the chair's signature. MCU.

13. CONSIDER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR SHORELINE STABILIZATION AND GULLY EROSION STRUCTURES AT HICKORY GROVE LAKE
Cox explained that Phase 1 of this three-phase project will include construction of rock check dams to stop gully erosion at a cost of \$114,106. The DNR is responsible for engineering and construction administration of the project; Story County Conservation will reimburse the Iowa DNR for 25% of the expenses. An FY18 budget amendment request includes \$100,000 budgeted—but unspent—in FY17.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that they approve Cooperative Agreement #18CRDLWBMBALM-0001 (and funding) between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Story County Conservation for shoreline stabilization and gully erosion structures at Hickory Grove Lake. MCU.

Sanders said the board of supervisors agrees with the conservation board's support of the project and acknowledged the time, energy, and dollars directed to Hickory Grove Lake improvements over the last several years. Sanders added that he is confident the supervisors will approve the agreement.

Cox further explained that Phase 1 should be substantially completed at the end of November. In Phase 2, the lake will be drawn down in spring 2018 after a drain pipe is bored through the dam, with dredging planned for late summer 2018. Shocking of the lake may be done by the DNR to relocate desirable fish; promiscuous fishing will be allowed prior to draining of the lake. A public meeting will be held on September 12 at Hickory Grove to announce the project and answer questions.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL WORK FOR DAKINS LAKE LIFT STATION

Cox reported that the wiring and circuit for the lift station were undersized. New cable will be pulled through the existing pipe, and it will cost \$4,151.17 for the repair. Shive-Hattery will reimburse SCC \$4,000 towards this work.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve an unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,151.17 for Dakins Lake lift station electrical work. MCU.

15. REVIEW STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The board discussed updates to the strategic plan for completion prior to FY19 budget planning this fall. A questionnaire will be sent to board, staff, and stakeholders repeating the previous survey for comparison. Board members' availability for the September 18 board meeting was discussed. Franz volunteered to spearhead the project and will confer with Director Cox regarding a timeline and board meeting date(s).

16. GENERAL UPDATES

Cox gave updates on the following:

- HG shower building. A completion date of August 18 has been accepted by the contractor; withholding of retainage will start 10 days after that date.
- Solar energy. Cox has been working with Eagle Point Solar regarding solar energy at Hickory Grove, Dakins Lake, and the conservation center. Cox will inspect the system currently in use at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County and bring an analysis to the board. Cox is waiting to hear about McFarland Clinic's proposed solar array at the ISU Research Park.
- Drainage ditches. Overall, the maintenance program has been working well. However, some landowners have been reluctant to allow access to their property to spray re-sprouts this summer. Access to some areas may have to wait until next spring before planting.
- IRVM pole shed. IRVM's storage building was damaged beyond repair in a storm this summer. The Story County Facilities Management and Sheriff's departments are interested in sharing a new building with IRVM at the rural Nevada site.
- Praeri Rail Trail extension. A verbal agreement for land acquisition has been reached with the Union Pacific Railroad and is scheduled for public hearing at the Story County Board of Supervisors' meeting on August 15.
- Skunk River Water Trail. Plans are underway for a dedication ceremony next spring. The low head dam project at River Valley Park may also be recognized at this event. Carol Williams has offered to coordinate the dedication event, and Special Projects Ranger Pat Shehan will be SCC's liaison.
- Wetland monitoring contract. Terracon Consultants, Inc. will perform the third year of wetland monitoring at Dakins Lake. Monitoring is required for five years and will include inspection of wetlands, stream channel, and prairie restoration buffer.
- NCCC grant application. SCC was not selected to receive a work crew this fall. Staff will apply for a grant next year.
- Water Trail Access Program Grant. The DNR is moving forward with quotes, project scope, permits, etc. for access improvements at Peterson Park and Cambridge Pond. Cox will be presenting the construction contract for approval and expenditure of Energy Transfer funds at a future board meeting.

17. BOARD REPORTS

- Franz reported that John Pohlman, Jerry Keys, and she staffed a booth at Ames' National Night Out event. Approximately 1,500 contacts were made sharing what SCC does, and 30 people signed up to receive *Prairie Horizons*. She added that SCC law enforcement staff may want to attend next year. A 2020 IACCB conference planning meeting with Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau staff will be held on August 18 at 9:00 a.m. at McFarland Park.
- Pease will speak at Des Moines County Conservation's volunteer recognition banquet this fall. He also announced that he and his wife, Cindy, will be hosting a 50th wedding anniversary party on November 25.
- Tedesco voiced his support of the REAP application. He also passed on compliments from the Altrusa Club for assistance by SCC staff in making reservations for the multipurpose room at the conservation center.
- Laumer shared an email from a nature camp volunteer who spoke highly of staff and her volunteer experience. Also, Laumer suggested that SCC consider hosting a booth at the Ames Farmers Market to reach families.

18. OTHER

Mike Meetz reported that the Story County REAP Committee meeting will meet on September 28 to update its five-year plan. He also offered to volunteer at the OLLI program this fall and reported that he had recruited a couple of volunteers for SCC while vacationing in Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.
Vice-Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board