

Story County Conservation Board  
November 13, 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	STAFF	GUESTS
Nancy Franz – present	Mike Cox	Mike Meetz
Jim Pease – present	Jolene Van Waus	Lauris Olson
Craig Meyers – present		
Ted Tedesco – present		
Christine Laumer - present		
Rick Sanders - absent		
3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS  
Chair Franz noted updated budget worksheets and SCCB strategic plan edits.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS  
Mike Meetz congratulated Nancy Franz on receiving the Governor’s Volunteer Award and acknowledged Heather Hucka on her National Association of Interpretation award. He reported that the ISU OLLI course presented by SCC received favorable reviews, with requests to repeat the course. Meetz also reported that committee members are reviewing nominations for the Olav Smedal Award.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2017 board meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS  
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve claims and receipts. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES  
Director Cox gave a brief update on the current fiscal year budget.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS  
Franz reminded board members of the December 11 board meeting and an open house celebrating Heather Hucka’s National Association of Interpretation award on November 20.
9. CONSIDER HOURLY WAGE ADJUSTMENT FOR NATHAN MEAD  
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to approve an hourly wage increase for Nathan Mead, Vegetation Management Aide, retroactive to August 20, 2017. MCU.
10. CONSIDER REAP DEVELOPMENT GRANT AGREEMENT FOR TEDESCO ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CORRIDOR  
MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer, to approve a REAP Development Grant Agreement for \$468,582 between Story County Conservation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. MCU.

11. CONSIDER RESOLUTION #2017-08 SUPPORTING A FISH HABITAT GRANT APPLICATION

Cox reported that staff plans to submit a grant application for improvements to Hickory Grove Lake. Staff will confer with Iowa DNR staff before determining the scope of the project and funds requested.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, to approve Resolution #2017-08 Supporting a Fish Habitat Grant Application for Hickory Grove Park. MCU.

12. CONSIDER FIRST READING OF STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION 2018-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

Updated content to the at-a-glance page and minor wording and punctuation changes were suggested. The director will make corrections and bring the document forward for a second reading in December. Cox and board members acknowledged and thanked Franz for her efforts in coordinating the revision of the plan and her leadership throughout the process.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, to approve a first reading of the Story County Conservation 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. MCU.

13. CONSIDER STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION FY19 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN REQUESTS

Director Cox distributed and explained a spreadsheet listing anticipated projects, total costs, and potential funding sources for review and discussion. Continued or new projects include: 1) Hickory Grove Lake renovation - Phases I and II; 2) new beach house at Hickory Grove Park; 3) one cabin at Dakins Lake; 4) completion of sidewalk replacement at the conservation center; 5) Heart of Iowa Nature Trail paving - Phase I; 6) Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor - Phase II; 7) Skunk River water trail access improvements; 8) continuation of sensitive areas inventory; 9) IRVM shop expansion; 10) Jordan Acres land acquisition; 11) Carroll Prairie acquisition; 12) Army Corps of Engineers land transfer; and 13) water quality assessments and improvements. Cox explained that these projects and funding will be considered for approval at the December board meeting. Supervisor Olson suggested that totals expended to date for multiple-year projects be identified in FY19 CIP requests.

The board also reviewed and discussed proposed projects utilizing Energy Transfer Funds.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to table approval of Story County Conservation FY19 Capital Improvement Plan Requests. MCU.

14. ANNUAL REVIEW OF STORY COUNTY'S COORDINATED LONG RANGE PLAN

The director shared that the 2016 plan was reviewed on a countywide level, with only minor changes suggested. Cox added that Franz cross-walked the C2C plan with the SCCB strategic plan and the county's capital improvement plan. County Outreach and Special Projects Manager Leanne Harter will present proposed amendments to the plan at the November 14 board of supervisors meeting.

15. REVIEW FY19 IRVM AND CONSERVATION BUDGET PROPOSALS

Cox reviewed a draft of the FY19 IRVM and Conservation FY19 budget proposals, providing information on specific projects and answering questions. Final proposals will be presented for approval at the December board meeting.

16. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox reported on the following:

- Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor - Construction is moving along quickly. Country Landscapes will be on site in the next week to work on soil lifts. Cox met with members of the Ames Rotary Club regarding trees to be planted next the spring. Several clubs are now committed to purchasing and planting all the trees and shrubs at TELC. Cox acknowledged and thanked Jim Pease and Jim Patton for initiating this project.
- Solar Energy - Cox and Pease will meet with a solar company representative later this week to explore options for solar power at Dakins Lake. Cox will report their findings at the December board meeting.
- Legislators Reception - Invitations for the December 15 reception will be mailed tomorrow. This year's theme is quality of life improvements in Story County.
- Praeri Rail Trail Extension - The board of supervisors will consider a purchase agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad for property in Zearing at their November 12 meeting.
- Hickory Grove Lake Renovation - Final design for Phase I of the project is pending. Draw down of the lake is now anticipated for spring 2018 after the ice is out.

17. BOARD REPORTS

- Tedesco and Cox spoke to residents at Green Hills last week, updating them on the TELC project. The same presentation is scheduled for the Ames Early Morning Rotary group on December 9.
- Laumer attended the November 2 *Partners* meeting. The group decided to discontinue the use of "Partners" in future fall and spring festivals.
- Meyers attended a recent Outdoor Alliance of Story County meeting, where plans for the legislators reception were discussed.
- Pease brought up the need to recognize donors to the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. Laumer and Franz volunteered to work on a recognition plan.

18. OTHER

Mike Meetz announced that updates to the Story County REAP Plan will be finalized by the end of the year. Jim Pease is accepting edits to the document through November 25.

Supervisor Olson reported that the redesign of the county's website should be ready to launch in April 2018. One of the website committee's goals is to provide public access to all county board meeting agendas and related documents.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn the meeting. MCU.  
Chair Franz adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

  
Recording Secretary

  
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