

Story County Conservation Board
December 10, 2018
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Pease - present

Craig Meyers - present

Christine Laumer – present

Ted Tedesco - present

Nancy Franz – present via phone

Rick Sanders - present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

Suzy Sernett

Cindy Hildebrand

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Pease noted a handout from Mike Meetz regarding global climate change.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Suzy Sernett commented that she is a frequent user of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and was disheartened to learn about plans to pave the trail between Slater and Huxley. She prefers the limestone surface for running and is concerned about increased traffic on the paved trail. She added that many others using the trail prefer the limestone, including the Ballard West School—which uses the trail for nature study.

Chair Pease said there are a number of reasons to pave the trail, including less maintenance and improved connectivity to other area trails. Franz added that the trails advisory committee has received a few comments about leaving the trail unpaved, but the majority of comments have been in favor of paving the trail. Sanders remarked that the trails plan was made available for public comment. The board thanked Sernett for attending the meeting and sharing her concerns.

Mike Meetz commented on the article he provided to the board on climate change. The science discussion group he is involved with feels that SCCB should be leaders in promoting and implementing as many actions as possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Discussion followed on what the board is already doing and what other steps SCC can take.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 5, 2018

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cox reported that budget expenditures are on track for the fiscal year.

8. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Cox reminded board members that the FY20 budget work session is scheduled for January 14 at 1:30. Tedesco and Pease said they plan to attend.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Story County Conservation FY18 Annual Report
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

Discussion: board members commented on interesting sections of the report. Sanders asked that the report be shared with each of the Story County supervisors.

- B. Approve FY20 Conservation and IRVM Proposals
MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

Cox reported on minor adjustments from the November 5 drafts, including an additional \$3,000 for the IRVM shop addition and funds for watershed coordination and outreach identified in the Countywide Watershed Assessment Implementation Matrix. Pease complimented staff in their preparation of the budget proposals.

- C. Consider Federal-Aid Agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for an Iowa Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project for Completing Hard Surfacing and Trail Improvements on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and Recommend Approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors

Cox reminded board members that the agreement is for a \$200,000 grant from the Central Iowa Regional Trail Planning Alliance (CIRTPA). The IDOT will handle bid letting and contract management of the project scheduled for construction later this fiscal year.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

- D. Consider Request from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for Construction Contract Award for Hickory Grove Lake Restoration Not to Exceed \$860,782.25 and Recommend Approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors
MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

Discussion: Sanders asked for clarification on the re-estimated FY19 budget expense, funding options, and timeline for DNR approval. He suggested that the board of supervisors wait to consider approval of the contract award until their December 18 meeting, if possible, in order to confirm funding options.

- E. Consider Approval of Countywide Watershed Assessment Implementation Plan and Recommend Adoption by the Story County Board of Supervisors
MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

- F. Consider Change Order 8 for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Bid Package 2 with Boulder Contracting, LLC for \$76,364 and Recommend Approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors

Cox reported that this change order addresses improvements in the riffles and repairs to the streambank due to heavy rains in June 2018. A portion of the repairs will be claimed

for reimbursement by FEMA. The Phase 2 contractor is able to start the work immediately.

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

G. Approve Timeline for FEMA-funded Repairs to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail Caused by June 2018 Flooding

Cox stated that significant damages to the trail classify these repairs as a large project, necessitating a public bid process. Bids will be requested for trail repairs to a pre-disaster state as well as mitigation (paving) to specific areas damaged repeatedly.

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

H. Approve Story County Conservation Board Meeting Dates for 2019

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

10. UPDATES

A. General Updates – Director Michael Cox

- A 160-acre tract of land near Gilbert is being considered for rezoning at the December 11 board of supervisors meeting. The property has prairie remnants; some portions are listed as natural resource areas. There are concerns regarding a buffer required to protect the prairie and the amount of water from septic systems that could have an effect on the dry prairie. The developer has offered to give a portion to the county for permanent protection. Planning and Zoning is recommending the rezoning proposal with a number of stipulations. In discussion, the SCC board is willing to work with the developer--with no commitments--if the rezoning request is approved.
- The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has purchased the Wicks and Longnecker properties. The Wicks family agreed to a 10-acre donation and bargain sale on the remaining 25 acres.
- Bid letting (through the IDOT) for the Praeri Rail Trail project is scheduled for the middle of January.
- Approximately 50 people attended the legislator's reception. Several mayors and city managers were present. Individual meetings will be scheduled with Representatives Sweeney and Bacon. The board discussed different locations/dates for future events—perhaps holding separate events for legislators/landowners/local officials.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meeting Updates, and Announcements from the Board

- Meyers reported that he took out-of-town guests to visit the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. They were impressed with the park and the permeable paving.
- Laumer reported that she has also heard many favorable comments about TELC.
- Tedesco attended Steve Carter's retirement party. A search is on for a new executive director at the ISU Research Park.
- Franz reported that she and Parks Superintendent Wiemold are working on a county trails plan, which they will take to the trails committee for comments. She has summarized results from two women's focus groups, cross walking results with a Facebook survey and a hunter education survey.
- Pease met with a company regarding the Dakins Lake cabin design. He anticipates that a proposal will be ready in January for the board to review. Pease attended a meeting of the Raccoon River Watershed where Bonnie McGill presented findings on

her post-doctoral research on practices to reduce nitrates in the river. He recommended that McGill be invited to speak to the SCC board. Pease commented on three articles about SCC projects in local newspapers this week.

C. Other - None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, that the meeting be adjourned. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board