

Story County Conservation Board
April 8, 2019
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

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

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers - present
Christine Laumer – present
Nancy Franz – present
Ted Tedesco – present
Jim Pease - present
Rick Sanders – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox
Marianne Harrelson
Ryan Weimold
Elizabeth Jackson

GUESTS

Mike Meetz
Eric Phipps
Mary Osborne
Joel Thilges
Susan Siev

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS- Director Cox introduced new staff member, Elizabeth Jackson, Administrative Assistant. The agenda was modified by moving the Peterson Park survey results to public comments.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Director Cox gave a brief overview of the Peterson Park survey results. The survey asked how the public feels about hunting and trapping in the park and suggested park improvements. Several guests voiced their opinions in opposition of eliminating firearm use and trapping. Reasons included availability of other parks in town provide non-hunting environments; desire to train dogs using a starter pistol; and concern for precedent setting for removal of hunting areas. The board recognized that the survey results indicate a great deal of misinformation about park use and funding. Board and staff expressed a need to better communicate with the public, increase signage, continue to receive feedback, and gather additional usage data.

Mike Meetz thanked the board for allowing use of SCCB resources for hunter education. He stated he has been interviewing board members and one of the naturalists on a radio broadcast, *The Science Bites*. He also noted that board member, Jim Pease, is reading a book, *Where The Sky Began*, by a Story County native, John Madson, that also airs on the radio.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2019. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease to approve minutes as presented. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. Cox noted that there is not a report on the receipts as staff are trying to get caught up on the reports. There is a backlog due to staff changes. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Comment made by Pease, there is a discrepancy in one of the subtotals on page 5 of 7. Corrections will be made. Clarification was made that we have not received the REAP grant yet, but expected to by the end of the FY.

8. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Meyers noted several upcoming events including Hoots and Howls, Trailgate Party, Carroll Prairie Dedication, the next board meeting on May 13, Park Fest on June 8 and the dedication of TELC on June 28. Cox reminded board members that the Supporters Dinner is this Thursday, April 11 at Prairie Moon beginning at 5:30PM.

9. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consideration of Action Forms

1)summer new hire, effective 5/20/19, a) Park Ranger Aide, Bryce Anderson @\$11.25/hr. b) Conservation Aide, Ian Chapman, @\$11.25/hr.; Leslie Du, @ \$11.25/hr.; Emily Lemons @\$11.25/hr.; Jacob Puckett @ \$11.25/hr.; Devin See@\$11.25/hr. c)Naturalist, Robyn Jackson @\$11.25/hr.; Kaylee Reynolds @\$11.25/hr. 2)summer rehire, effective 5/20/19, Tracy Christiansen @\$11.50/hr. 3)pay correction, effective 3/25/19, Elizabeth Jackson, Administrative Assistant II @\$16.84/hr. 4)pay adjustment, effective 5/20/19, IRVM Veg. Mgmt. Aide, Tanner Christiansen @\$11.75/hr; Allison Stegmann @\$11.75/hr 5)termination, effective 3/27/19, Carol Williams. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

B. Approval for Purchase of Furnace and Heat Pump from C&K for Story County Conservation for \$8,961.00. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

C. Contract Consideration of Contract with ConStruct Inc. for repairing flood damages along The Heart of Iowa Nature Trail sustained during the summer of 2018 for \$168,218.00. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. MCU. Pease questioned that these are FEMA repairs. Cox clarified that we are restoring the trail to pre-disaster condition.

D. Consideration of Contract with Howrey Construction Inc. for the paving of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail between R38 and 535th Avenue. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

E. Consideration of Contract with Snyder & Associates for construction services in regards to the paving of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail between R38 and 535th Avenue for \$46,460.00. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. MCU.

F. Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding with the cities of Ankeny, Madrid, Sheldahl, Slater, Woodward and Conservation Boards of Boone and Polk County for the High Trestle Trail. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. MCU.

- G. Consideration of No Spray Request Permit. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.
- H. Consideration of Purchase of a Fleet Vehicle - Toyota RAV 4 Hybrid from Wilson Toyota for \$27,477.00 - Unbudgeted. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease. MCU.
- I. Consideration of Watershed Assessment Implementation Matrix and Working Group Program. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. MCU. Pease previously provided comments to staff and those comments were reviewed.
- J. Consideration of FY19 Budget Amendments. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU. Clarification from Cox on some items that were moved between FY19 and FY20.

10. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox- Stated we are being recommended for a CIRPTA grant for Phase #2 of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail paving. Updates on land acquisitions were given.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Board member Franz updated the Board on 1) the Trailgate Party being held April 14 which will have a variety of organizations providing exhibits (8 booths) 2) the District 1 ICCS meeting piloted three of workshops for the 2020 conference; 3) she facilitated strategic planning for the Overflow Thrift Store related to their recycling efforts; 4) the Eco fair on April 20th at the Ames City Hall. Board member Tedesco stated the 2nd solar panel at TELC is installed and filter pave is being completed. Board member Pease presented at the District 1 meeting and assisted with the TELC tour. The tour was informative on a number of issues, and he was dismayed that a sewer riser was placed next to the trail. He is working with Jerry Keys on the interpretive signs and he and Keys are determining a location for the interactive electronic display inside the core facility. Board member Laumer questioned if we are doing anything about controlling the geese at TELC, Director Cox responded that once we get the native vegetation established, it will be less hospitable for them there.

C. Other-none

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Story County Conservation Board