

Story County Conservation Board
October 14, 2019
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers - present

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Ted Tedesco – absent

Jim Pease – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Jerry Keys

GUESTS

Kurt Halbach

Camila Almeida

Alex Andrade

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS- CyBIZ Lab TELC Phase 2 Visitor Spending Analysis. Their objective was to conduct a survey to analyze visitor expenditure at the newly opened Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. The CyBIZ Lab team conducted an onsite survey with visitors at the park. The results showed that the average spending per person at TELC is \$0.58. There were 105 participants, 21 had some amount of spending and 84 indicated zero spending. When they took out the participants who did not spend any money, the average was \$3.33. Some of the visitor recommendations was a closer bathroom proximity, additional waste disposal areas and some entertainment options such as food trucks or playground.

5. STAFF REPORT- Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator, presented his annual report. He indicated that the program and event numbers are remaining steady. The weather is greatly impacting these numbers. Summer camps and Wild Women of the Woods were a great success. We added some new programs this past year and tried to do more co-sponsoring events. We partnered with Story County ISU Extension for a Master Conservationist Program, some summer camps and no school day camps. Several of our employees have participated in the conservation's immersion days. Partners is raising money for the Dakins cabin this year. A reminder that the multi-purpose room will be closed for remodeling November 7, 2019 to January 10, 2020. We are purchasing a composter and are working on a compost program for field trips. The county is going to include a video segment of the Naturalist for a new recruitment video.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. Director Cox clarified a question about property taxes indicating that there are a couple properties that we lease and we pay taxes on them and there was also a prorated amount due on the Bundy parcel. The claim to Cervis is for the

volunteer database and Houston Engineering is for work on Hannum's Mill. On-Cell is an annual fee. Schwig Outdoor is who we purchased the McFarland dock from. Moving the REAP funds reflected and account adjustment to reimburse TIF funds for TELC. MCU.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

9. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The November 4th board meeting will be here at McFarland. The December and January meetings will be held at the Administration Building in Nevada in the Board of Supervisors meeting room while the multipurpose room is being remodeled. There is a meeting on October 23rd concerning the Praeri Rail Trail.

10. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Action Forms

Fall IRVM Aide new hire effective 10/15/19, Jeremy Andersen @ \$11.50/hr.

Fall/Winter Conservation Aide new hire effective 11/4/19, Michael Parker @ \$11.50/hr.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Change Order With RW Excavating, LLC For The Hickory Grove Lake Restoration Project For Placement Of Fish Habitat Structure Under Existing Iowa DNR Fish Habitat Grant For \$20,900. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer.

Director Cox indicated that this is funded by the Fish Habitat Grant. When we received the competitive bids on the first portion of this contract, the prices were low so we had excess grant money. We reached out to the DNR and confirmed that we could put more habitat in and that is what this change order reflects. MCU.

C. Consideration Of Contracting With Jensen Excavating For Waterway Stabilization For The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail At 630th Avenue For \$26,480.00. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. This is on the north side of the trail and is a very deep waterway where a number of different drainages come together. It is rapidly getting worse and needs to be addressed. MCU.

D. Consideration Of Agreement With The Trust For Public Land For A Local Funding Feasibility Study. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. This is the proposal to enter into a contract with The Trust for Public Land for identification of sustainable funding mechanisms. It will identify all options available. The cost for this service is \$24,700. MCU.

E. Consideration Of Purchase Agreement With Rosemary Oshiem For 37 Acres In Section 18 Of Howard Township. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. Total cost for this land is \$137,001.00 over 8 years and will be a great asset to conservation. This is scheduled for Public Hearing with the Board of Supervisors on October 29th. MCU.

F. Consideration Of Easement Agreement With James And Jeanne Roth For Construction Of A Multi-Use Recreational Trail. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

- G. Consideration Of Easement Agreement With Burgason Enterprises, LLC For Construction Of A Multi-Use Recreational Trail. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. In the future, the Burgasons are proposing a unique residential development on this property that will compliment environmental improvements and objectives at TELC. MCU.
- H. Consideration Of Easement Agreement With The Iowa State University Foundation For Construction Of A Multi-Use Recreational Trail. MOTION by Pease to approve both ISU Easement Agreements at the same time, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.
- I. Consideration Of Easement Agreement With The Iowa State University Foundation For Construction Of A Multi-Use Recreational Trail.
- J. Tabled - Consideration Of Final Plans Specifications And Form Of Contract For The Dakins Lake Sustainable Energy Cabin. MOTION to Untable by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. MCU. MOTION to Indefinitely Postpone by Laumer, SECOND by Pease. MCU.
- K. Review 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan. This is not an action item – only a review.

11. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox indicated that Story County would like to become a Bird Friendly Iowa county. We are the only county that is considering it and would like to proceed with getting approval from the Board of Supervisors and complete the application process. We were awarded a REAP grant for \$74,000.00 for the Wick's property. Director Cox met with Houston Engineering to discuss progress on Hannum's Mill Dam mitigation concepts. The cultural and mussel worked cleared. Concepts are being developed.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz indicated that the trail committee meets on the 26th in Slater on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. She participated in the Master Conservationist program. Iowa's Water and Land Legacy (IWILL) is coming up soon and Public Health is going to be doing a resolution at the county level. She met with members of Shive-Hattery regarding their desire to learn more about strategic planning and would like to add that to their portfolio of services. She is going to help them look at different kinds of processes and methods and they are going to shadow her in November. Pease mentioned that he has been involved with a number of things here including the Dotson subdivision. Currently, the attorneys are working together to get an agreement written up. He has been working with several groups and sent out letters to the members of the Iowa 4H Foundation to consider the sale of the 4H camp as a whole.

C. Other – none.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Recording Secretary



Story County Conservation Board