

Story County Conservation Board
January 13, 2020
Story County Administration Building, Nevada, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers - present
Christine Laumer – absent
Nancy Franz – present
Ted Tedesco – present
Jim Pease – present
Linda Murken – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox
Marianne Harrelson
Joe Kooiker
Tyler Kelley

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Meyers administered the Oath of Office to Nancy Franz, who will serve through 2024.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Mike Meetz thanked the board members for serving on the conservation board.

6. ELECT 2020 OFFICERS

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, nominating Pease as Chair. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Pease. MCU.

Meyers turned the gavel over to Pease, who chaired the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Tedesco, nominating Laumer as Vice-Chair. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Laumer. MCU.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco, nominating Franz as Secretary. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Franz. MCU.

7. STAFF REPORT – Moved to after Action Items.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2019. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Pease questioned the budget item for the IRVM shop addition that we are going to approve later in Action Items. Harrelson clarified that the budget dollars were moved to the insurance claim and county wide budget during the FY20 budget worksession.

11. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Pease mentioned that we had great attendance for the OWLS meeting held on January 7th and reminded everyone about the Common Ground Recording Sessions. Franz commented that April is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and we are not doing anything. She would like to encourage our staff to do some "pop-up" things for Earth Day. Pease reminded the board that the Praeri Rail Trail meeting is tomorrow night. The Trails Advisory Committee is scheduled for January 30th.

12. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Consideration of Sprayer System Purchase. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. Pease stated that we did not receive the grant for the GPS system and the cost for the sprayer system was higher than the original budgeted amount. Cox indicated that we will probably have some other areas that will not be fully expensed or we can ask for a budget amendment later in FY20 for the additional costs. Pease asked Kooiker to give an explanation about the sprayer nozzle he chose as part of the purchase. MCU.
 - B. Consideration of Grant of Limited Easement with Iowa Regional Utilities Association. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. Franz questioned if the easement conveyed temporary or permanent easements. Cox state that this agreement conveys both. MCU
 - C. Placement of Memorial Pergola for Roger Spaete at Hickory Grove Park. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.
 - D. Consideration of IRVM Shop Addition. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyer. Harrelson indicated that there was money budgeted in FY20 for the shop addition but the County Auditor moved the funds into an insurance account and will be paid out of that account. It was mentioned that the electrical work is not included in this quote and a separate contract will be issued at a later date. MCU.
7. STAFF REPORT – move from above - Joe Kooiker, Vegetation Management Biologist and Tyler Kelley, Vegetation Management Specialist updated the board on IVRM operations the past year. Kooiker provided information on how they are going to track their work orders in the future since they have a tablet to record their data electronically. They are using the same work order system that secondary roads is using and the data is being tracked county wide. He gave statistics on planting, erosion control, seed harvesting and noxious weed/brush control.

Kelley reported on drainage district work. They have been able to cut brush back almost every day since December 11th. He will be burning the brush from the past couple years in the next couple months and will do some additional cleanup. We have had several discussions with the Board of Supervisors regarding contract spray programs for the drainage ditches. He is working to get rough estimates to contract spray each individual drainage ditch. We are hoping to be able to consider contract spraying prior to the April levy

deadline. Kelley has a list of the property owners he will contact regarding the “No Spray” program to inform them about the program. Kelley indicated that he is on the Story County Safety Committee and they are working on “Job Safety Analysis” for all county operations.

Tyler Kelley was elected to be a delegate at the REAP Congress. At the Congress held on January 4th, they voted to keep the formula for REAP, to keep the REAP asking amount a minimum of \$20 million, and to support the Iowa Natural Resource and Outdoor Trust Fund.

13. UPDATES:

A. General Updates: Director Cox indicated the FY21 budget worksession is scheduled for this Wednesday, January 15th at 9:00AM. Pease, Tedesco and Franz are planning to attend. Pease asked if there were any changes that the board needs to be aware of. Cox updated the board on the Dakins cabin and the Hickory Grove Park sewer projects. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that there are more cultural findings than anticipated and they need more funding to finish the cultural work. Our agreement with them states that we are committed to paying the additional money. Cox reviewed the agenda for the Praeri Rail Trail listening session scheduled for tomorrow night with the Board of Supervisors. He and board members discussed their roles and responsibilities for the meeting.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Tedesco visited Whiterock Conservancy and indicated that they have a good brochure with all of their amenities and costs. Franz was impressed with the way that the Hannum’s Mill meeting was done and she continues to work with our partners on the 2020 conference. Meyers is planning on attending the council meeting in Colo and he attended a meeting with the Outdoor Alliance and asked them to contribute to the 2020 conference. Pease mentioned that he presented at the OWLS meeting and at the Ames Public Library.

C. Other – none.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.



Recording Secretary


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