

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, April 12, 2010
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

1. Chair W. Clinton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Wayne Clinton – present
Erin Wilgenbusch – present
Ted Tedesco – present
Don Toms – present
Joyce Hornstein – present

STAFF

Steve Lekwa
Amber Tiarks
Rick Carter (arrived at 7:25)

GUESTS

Anne Wilgenbusch
Jonathan Schmidt (arrived at 7:25)
Michael Goedert (arrived at 7:25)

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guest Anne Wilgenbusch introduced herself.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

The agenda was reviewed. It was noted the time was wrong and the meeting was to begin at 7:00 p.m. rather than 7:30 p.m. New policy manuals with replacement instructions and the summer edition of *Prairie Horizons* were handed out.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by D. Toms, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2010 meeting. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

Lekwa pointed out the Martin Construction claim for backhoe work on Hickory Grove's waterline. Lekwa discovered a leak, which the installation company fixed for free, but SCC paid for the dirt work. This is the third time there has been a failure at a T-coupling. Staff is not sure if it's a flaw in the design of the compression fitting or a problem with installation. Water usage for February was 81,000 gallons; after the repair, March usage was 9,000 gallons.

MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by D. Toms, to approve all claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Lekwa reported that while there have been unexpected expenses, such as replacing the heating elements in water heaters at the shower house, the Financial Data Coordinator has advised that major budgeted projects are nearing completion. As of yet, SCC has not been billed by Bolton & Menk Inc. for the contracted sanitary sewer study.

Wilgenbusch inquired how the parks fared after the winter. Lekwa responded that staff has repaired the typical spring leaks and there was no major tree damage from the ice storms.

May-1

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The chair noted the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 21 and a TEAM workday on the Skunk River Greenbelt scheduled for April 24. The May meeting will be held on May 17, one week later than normal, due to the director's vacation.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Lekwa reviewed the communication from the packet. Packet pages 14-17 show a map of the Long Range Transportation Plan Proposal for City of Ames, as well as SCC's response.

Also included is copy of a letter from Stephen Owen regarding the conservation board's request to have camping revenues earmarked for the conservation reserve account. Owen raised a question regarding implications for the county if a large monetary gift is received. Lekwa informed Owen that Conservation utilized the trust fund for donations, not the reserve account. Now that the county attorney's office has reviewed the request, Lekwa will submit it to the Board of Supervisors. The county attorney is continuing to work on the issue of the Story County Community Foundation Endowment Fund.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anne Wilgenbusch reported that the "Garbologist" came to her classroom and she really enjoyed the presentation by SCC's environmental education staff. Jonathan Schmidt and Mike Goedert, both forestry majors at Iowa State, introduced themselves at this time.

11. APPROVE CONTRACT FOR CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT

MOTION by D. Toms, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve the contract for the Campground Attendant. MCU.

12. APPROVE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONTRACT CRDR80002SGM110006 FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AT ROBISON WILDLIFE ACRES

Lekwa explained this is a standard IDNR contract to provide a grant of \$4,400 to hire the services of Conservation Corps Iowa to help with invasive species control at Robison Wildlife Acres. The contract also calls for research to determine wildlife use before and after the removal of the invasives.

MOTION by E. Wilgenbusch, SECOND by D. Toms, to approve the IDNR contract for habitat improvement at Robison Wildlife Acres and to authorize the director to sign on behalf of the conservation board. MCU.

13. APPROVE CONTRIBUTION TO IOWA'S WATER AND LAND LEGACY THROUGH IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Board members Tedesco and Hornstein and Director Lekwa heard a presentation about the IWILL campaign at IACCB's Spring Conference, but a financial contribution cannot be made without board approval. A letter from Mark Ackleson, president of the INHF, explains that this request for financial support is directed to education and outreach on sustainable funding. As a public agency, SCC cannot act as an advocate for an amendment to the constitution of Iowa. The INHF is coordinating the education campaign in preparation of the November vote. Lekwa explained that the education campaign is costly, especially toward the end when television ads will be purchased. INHF has a coordinator

May-2

and assistant on staff to run the campaign. Lekwa also read an email noting that Pheasants Forever will match any donations or pledges received by April 15. Lekwa said a contribution could be made through our trust fund with money from the Gladys Leui estate.

MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve a contribution of \$750 from the trust fund to send to the INHF's IWill campaign for education and outreach on sustainable funding. MCU.

14. IACCB TRANSITION

Lekwa has been meeting with a long-range planning committee to help transition IACCB for Don Brazelton's retirement. What was supposed to be a three-year process must now be accomplished by June 2011. Over the past several years, IACCB's budget has been met by dipping into the reserve fund, with the primary source of income being annual conference registrations and dues. The proposal for the future is to phase out the physical office and transition to a virtual office at www.mycountyparksiowa.com. In addition, IACCB has to adjust the membership dues based on the current membership tiers. The tier system is based on REAP valuation of county budgets, in addition to population. It is projected that Story County would pay \$2,500 a year to maintain affiliation, compared to the current commitment of \$850.

IACCB is projecting costs to be \$150,300 by Fiscal Year 2012. Current costs per year are \$120,000-130,000, and the only way to keep from tapping out the reserve is to have a more fixed form of dues. Lekwa stated that the larger counties are supportive of the changes. Formal changes will be on the agenda at the fall conference and will be presented at each district to generate the support needed for IACCB to remain viable in the future.

15. HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

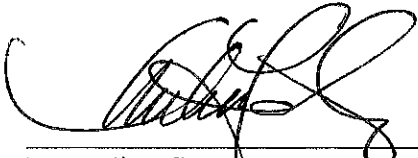
Herberger Construction has not been on site yet. They would like to see if the river goes down and hope for 4-6 weeks of dry weather to complete the work without getting flooded out.

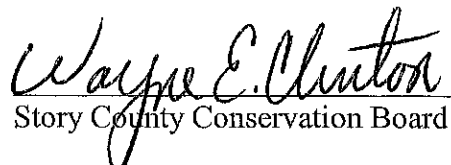
16. OTHER

Lekwa presented a flowchart to discuss the experimental restructuring of field operations in an effort to break down unit walls and blend staff depending on project needs. Lekwa feels the restructuring is necessary due to compounding budgetary pressures. Each year SCC slides a little further behind, hasn't been able to follow through with the equipment replacement schedule, and soon may not be able to afford duplicate sets of equipment on each side of the county. Unit Ranger Rick Carter has been designated to coordinate all field operations and development. Wilgenbusch praised staff for finding ways to work more efficiently.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Wayne E. Clinton
Story County Conservation Board

may-3