

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, November 28, 2011  
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

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

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Ted Tedesco – absent

Wayne Clinton – present

Jim Pease – present

Joyce Hornstein – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Jolene Van Waus

GUESTS

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests in attendance.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Revised budget worksheets were noted by the chair.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2011 MEETING

MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2011 board meeting. MCU.

J. Pease asked about sign changes to the re-named Lekwa Access. Cox responded that Special Projects Ranger Williams is part of the water trail committee and is taking care of this. Pease also inquired about the status of the vacant park ranger position. Cox said the goal is have someone in place in that position by next spring. Pease announced that nominations for the Olav Smedal Award were reviewed last week, and a selection has been made for the award.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

There were no additional comments to the written reports in the packet.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The Coffee Beans and Apple Trees program scheduled for December 13 program has been cancelled. Cox reported that the staff strategic planning session with Jean Eells is scheduled for December 28.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

W. Clinton received a letter from Jim Dakins in support of the board of supervisors moving forward with TIFF.

Director Cox pointed out economic impact figures starting on page N-32 of the packet that were presented to the American Planning Association. Cox stated that this money is not

necessarily new money in the community but it is generated by Story County Conservation facilities. He wanted to bring these economic impact figures to the board's attention and added that it is important to get this message out to the public.

#### 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

#### 11. REVIEW FY13 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Director Cox described the process that he and staff followed in preparing these budget proposals for the board's review for approval at the December 5 board meeting. Budget proposals will be submitted to the auditor on December 6, and the department's worksession with the board of supervisors is January 12. Cox also explained the budget worksheets, tax asking summaries, and special fund totals. Re-estimated FY12 expenditure and revenue figures will be available prior to the board's approval of the budget proposals next week. Salaries were kept at existing levels according to budget preparation instructions. W. Clinton said the board of supervisors hopes to offer a cost-of-living increase, but that amount is not known at this time.

Cox and the board reviewed each line item of the budget proposals. The following comments or changes were suggested:

- Utilities (430) will reflect more conservative savings than shown if wind energy is implemented. Cox is awaiting cost estimates (including lease options) on wind turbines at McFarland Park and Hickory Grove Park. If wind energy is not pursued, utilities will be budgeted at the same amount as FY12.
- A heating/cooling contractor checked the furnaces at the conservation center. All three are original units from 1991 and now beyond their average life span. The contractor commented that the units have been well maintained, but he would not venture a guess on how long they will last. Cox said geothermal is still on the radar as an ideal option—or a system similar to one recently installed at the Community Life building is a possibility. One furnace replacement will be budgeted in FY13.
- The Conservation Acquisition and Capital Projects line includes:
  - \$47,000 for Hickory Grove water line repairs. Thirteen t-connections and the line to the campground shower house need to be replaced to address the loss of 570 gallons of water each day.
  - Improvements to the conservation center restrooms (automatic faucets, flushing toilets, and light sensors) are estimated at \$18,700.
  - \$26,300 is budgeted towards sewer replacement at Hickory Grove Park. A connection from the park to Twin Anchors—which is on the Colo sewer system—was initially estimated at \$230,000.
  - The Dakins land acquisition should be completed in FY12 with additional funds from LAWCON and trust fund/REAP balances.

The IRVM budget is comparable to last year's except for the addition of a vegetation management specialist, part-time staff (including a .25 FTE office assistant to handle billing), benefits, and supplies to work on drainage districts. The estimated \$62,000 additional expenses for personnel and operating expenses will be recouped in whole from the drainage districts and is reflected in the proposed revenue totals.

12. GENERAL UPDATES

Director Cox had a conversation today with Congressman Latham's office re: the Army Corps of Engineer's land in the Skunk River Greenbelt. The corps does not have the funding to pay the transfer costs of approximately \$170,000. Cox will continue to work with the Corps in hopes of finding a resolution to this issue.

13. IOWA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARDS UPDATE

J. Hornstein reported the following:

- A statewide asset inventory calculated over \$1.5 billion in assets, while the DNR's assets totaled approximately \$720 million. (Cox received results of the survey and will include them in the next board packet.)
- The legislative contract with Don Brazelton has been signed is on file.
- The Outdoor Adventure Guide is undergoing revision and will be available in print as well as online.
- Only 12 counties have returned the IACCB survey; deadline is the end of December.
- The next board of directors meeting will be in January.

14. OTHER

J. Pease inquired about the timeline to fill the board position held by Erin Wilgenbusch. W. Clinton said he received an email inquiry from an interested citizen and will be considering applicants to fill the last year of Wilgenbusch's appointment as well as a new board member to start in January 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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