

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, March 12, 2012  
Story County Administration Building, Nevada, Iowa

1. Vice-Chair T. Tedesco called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Jim Pease – absent	Mike Cox	None
Ted Tedesco – present	Jolene Van Waus	
Joyce Hornstein - present		
Sandy Opstvedt - absent		
Allen Weber – present		
Wayne Clinton - present (ex-officio)		
3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS  
Tedesco noted supplemental packet materials. Director Cox remarked that the action item regarding an amendment to the High Trestle Trail 28E Agreement was not ready for discussion at this meeting.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2012 MEETING  
MOTION by A. Weber, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting. MCU.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2012 MEETING  
MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by A. Weber, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2012 meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS  
MOTION by A. Weber, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve all claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES  
Several budget amendments made by the county auditor in February were noted by Financial Data Coordinator Van Waus.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS  
Tedesco reminded board members that the next meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 7:00 p.m. Clinton advised that he will not be able to attend that meeting.
9. COMMUNICATIONS  
Cox stated he did not have additional communications but pointed out correspondence from Nevada multi-age teachers congratulating the environmental education staff on their recent awards.
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

11. APPROVE SECOND READINGS OF REVISIONS TO SCCB BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, PERSONNEL POLICIES, DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES, AND SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT POLICY  
MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by A. Weber, to approve second readings of revisions to SCCB By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and policies. MCU.
12. APPROVE WATER TRAILS ASSISTANCE GRANT AGREEMENT  
MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by A. Weber, to approve a Water Trails Assistance Grant Agreement (Hannum's Mill Dam portage) with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. MCU.
13. APPROVE AMENDMENT TO HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL 28E AGREEMENT  
MOTION by A. Weber, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to table discussion and approval of this item. MCU.
14. GENERAL UPDATES BY DIRECTOR COX
  - Director Cox thanked the board for tabling action on approval of the High Trestle Trail agreement. Upon review by the county attorney's office, the agreement called for financial contributions from all the partners to go into a discretionary endowment, to which Story County Conservation cannot contribute because the fund is not managed as public money. Cox explained that amendments will need to be made to the agreement, or SCC will need to explore other options for an agreement. Cox will pursue those options with the county attorney's office.
  - Cox and Special Projects Ranger Williams met with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and Suzy Shierholz of the Story County Community Foundation to address access to money that Story County Conservation deposited in a seed fund. The county attorney advised that public funds cannot be held in an endowment. Options are being investigated to resolve this issue as well.
  - Two potential primitive camping sites have been identified to replace sites eliminated at McFarland Park in 2011. A walk-in site is being considered at Robison Wildlife Acres, and a second site along the river north of Soper's Mill would accommodate water traffic. After comments are received from potential users (including the paddlers group), a proposal will be brought to the board.
  - Cox thanked the board for approving the proposed staff re-organization at their March 2 meeting. Job announcements for a park ranger and natural resource specialist have been advertised. Cox noted that the latter position was re-titled (from natural resource coordinator), but the job description and grade remained the same.
  - SOAR (Saving Our Avian Resources), a non-profit organization located in Dedham, Iowa, plans to release several rehabilitated bald eagles at McFarland Park on Saturday, March 24. A time will be announced after plans are confirmed.
  - While attending REAP Day at the Capitol as part of the County Conservation Directors Association retreat, Cox was able to speak to Sen. Bacon and Rep. Deyoe. One of the topics discussed at a legislative forum (attended by seven legislators) was proposed funding cuts to the lake restoration program. Cox reported that Hickory Grove is one of the public lakes that would be impacted by this \$1 million reduction to fund re-building of privately-owned Lake Delhi in northeast Iowa. Cox provided a handout of the proposed IDNR funding cuts and has a summary of how this money would be used if board members are interested in this information as well.

- Cox will be attending the Iowa State Association of Counties spring workshop in Des Moines later this week. He will also travel to the Iowa Association of Naturalists meeting to be present when the SCC environmental education staff receives individual and group awards.
- Cox reported that Assistant County Attorney Owen identified some issues with the Shive-Hattery engineering contract for Dakins Lake development. Cox said several questions need to be answered and recommended that the board heed Owen's advice. Time is of the essence, and Cox will make follow-up calls. W. Clinton suggested having a conference call to discuss issues if needed; Clinton and Tedesco said they could be available for this call. Clinton also said he would like to convey the board's desire to have a decision on the status of the endowment as soon as possible. Cox will contact Owen and arrange for him to address the board on this issue.

#### 15. IOWA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARDS UPDATE

- J. Hornstein attended REAP Day at the capitol and was able to talk to Rep. Bacon and Rep. Deyoe to suggest full funding for REAP and visited about other conservation issues.
- The spring conference held in Ames last Saturday was a success. The speakers, including IDNR Deputy Director Chuck Gipp, were good. Tom Hazelton presented a summary of the IAACB strategic planning survey results and talked about exciting and new things happening with the organization.
- Hornstein distributed a handout re: an upcoming conservation summit in September to support the IWill campaign. The goal of the summit is to get people to think about acts of conservation that happen in their counties.
- A short board of directors meeting was held after the spring conference with some discussion on the fall conference. Hornstein will have a more detailed report after their May meeting.
- The revision to the Outdoor Adventure Guide is close to completion, and the mycountyparks.com website is coming along fine.

#### 16. OTHER

W. Clinton shared that, at the recent National Association of Counties conference he attended as Iowa's representative to the Environmental Energy and Land Use Steering Committee in Washington, DC, resolutions proposed for their annual conference included: 1) Support of Department of Defense (DOD) matching funds for conservation easement programs, and 2) Continued bipartisan support and funding for the DOD's Readiness Environmental Protection Initiative. Clinton added that if board members have any other ideas or resolutions in which NACO could support conservation, please bring them to him.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by J. Hornstein, second by A. Weber to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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