

Story County Conservation Board  
Monday, August 8, 2011  
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

1. Chair T. Tedesco called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Ted Tedesco – present	Mike Cox	None
Wayne Clinton – present	Jolene Van Waus	
Jim Pease – present	Carol Williams	
Erin Wilgenbusch – absent		
Joyce Hornstein – present		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS  
There were no guests.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS  
Supplemental packet information was noted by Chair Tedesco.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
MOTION by W. Clinton, SECOND by J. Pease, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS  
MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by W. Clinton, to approve all claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES  
Director Mike Cox commented that nothing on the new budget year was notable. Regarding last fiscal year's budget, Cox clarified that trust fund, REAP, and FEMA balances will carry over or be amended into FY12, leaving a little over \$6,000 remaining from FY11 towards the county's general fund.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS  
Chair Tedesco pointed out the *Partners* reception for Cox on August 23 and the Jennett Heritage Area dedication on September 8.
9. COMMUNICATIONS  
Chair stated he had none. Jim Pease asked if there were any toxicology reports, etc. from the drowning. Cox reported that the toxicology results came back clean.
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS  
None.

11. APPROVE SECOND READING OF AMENDEMENT TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION PERSONNEL POLICY  
MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by W. Clinton, to approve second reading of an amendment to Story County Conservation Personnel Policy. MCU.
12. AUTHORIZE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR INDIAN CREEK GREENBELT TRAIL  
MOTION by W. Clinton; SECOND by J. Hornstein, to authorize the director to submit a letter of support for the Indian Creek Greenbelt Trail--Story County Extension. MCU.
13. SPECIAL PROJECTS AND *PARTNERS* UPDATES  
Carol Williams reported on special projects and *Partners* activities over the past year. Major projects included:

Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, Phases 7 and 8 - Construction resumed in June 2010 with the walk-through in April 2011. There are still a few items on the punch list to be completed—specifically testing the fence. \$30,000 in retainage is owed to Herberger Construction, and \$70,000 retainage is owed to SCC. SCC staff has been doing a great job of maintaining and mowing the trail. Williams said more can be done long-term with this trail.

High Trestle Trail – Provided information and staffed a booth at the grand opening of this regional trail in April.

Jennett Heritage Area - A habitat grant proposal was submitted in May 2010, with a \$402,000 grant awarded in July 2010. The area was purchased from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) in March 2011 for \$536,000. Dedication of the new area will be on September 8, 2011. Williams added that this has been an exciting project for staff.

Dakins Lake land acquisition – Plans are to begin paying the INHF for this \$350,000 (approximate) acquisition in FY12. A LAWCON grant proposal was submitted in March 2011 and received \$27,476 in funding. Plans are to apply for additional grants during the development of the area.

Fish Habitat Grant – A grant proposal for jetty repairs/improvements at Hickory Grove Park was submitted in November 2010. It scored first among the applications and received \$15,920 from the Iowa DNR. Work is to be completed this fall.

Skunk River Water Trail – Progress on this state water trail project continues. The extended deadline to complete the five kiosks is December 2011. Area and boundary signs for the Shreck Access are also scheduled for completion by that date. A water trail grant proposal for \$6,744 was submitted August 5 for updates to signage (both wayfinding and warning signs at dams). Williams added that the IDNR is working with the IDOT for additional signage from highways.

Indian Creek Greenbelt Trail – The City of Nevada is writing numerous grants to private foundations for funding of this project. SCC will assist in submitting State Federal Transportation Enhancement and CIRPTA grants.

Other projects included:

- Working on maps and inspections from August 2010 floods
- Assisting with submission of wildlife diversity grant proposal
- Reviewing easements
- Reviewing new federal trail rules
- Focus group work

Major program assistance in 2010-11 included Trek the Trails Snowshoe and Trail Run, TEAM days, and the state bluebird conference. Upcoming events include Trek the Trails 2012, TEAM days, fall festival, finishing up HOINT phases 7 and 8, horse signs and 911 signs on the HOINT, and a grant proposal for new playground equipment at Dakins Lake.

Board members asked about usage at Dakins Lake and complaints about facilities. Tedesco suggested that camping fees go back to the old rate; Clinton and Hornstein said they prefer keeping the higher rates to provide funds for improvements. Pease suggested that placement of interpretative signs along some of SCC's trails could be projects for grant funding.

*Partners* – The *Partners* program is rolling along. Membership is at 179—double from 2007. In FY11, *Partners* gave \$5,000 towards the Jennett acquisition plus additional money for the 15-passenger van. Festivals were well attended the past year. The proposed FY12 budget shows \$4,000 to help with the goat fence project at Robison Wildlife Acres as well as other projects. Williams said the committee has discussed how to recruit new members. A direct mailing has not been done for several years, and a consultant may need to be hired to help with some ideas on increasing membership.

Board members thanked Williams for her presentation and told her to keep up the good work.

#### 14. IACCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

J. Hornstein, District I representative on the IACCB board of directors, said the organization's staff transition is going well. Tom Hazelton, new executive secretary, is working out of his home in Cedar Rapids, and Julie Moss is working out of her home in Elkhart. They have daily Skype sessions, and Don Brazelton is still nearby for questions. A lot of items were stored in Don's garage, and some of these are being distributed to relevant counties. Hornstein distributed updated board of directors and IACCB staff contact information as well as the tentative conference agenda for 2012 at Honey Creek State Park. The board is trying to work ahead a few years on the conference and looking to increase participation from some of the southern counties. Hornstein's term ends in 2012.

Tedesco inquired about the response to the new dues structure. IACCB anticipates that the increase will be problematic for three to five counties, and Hazelton will be following up with phone calls. Hornstein added that there were some issues with sustaining memberships, so recruitment and improved exposure/advertising at the annual conference is planned.

#### 15. OTHER

Director Cox reported that he received completed questionnaires from all staff and is in the process of compiling the results. Thus far, the predominant sentiments were incredible

energy level, passion, and potential among the staff. Resources in the community--both natural and human (volunteers, etc.)--were also a common theme. As far as weaknesses/threats, comments were: lack of communication, a need for clear understanding of job descriptions and chain of command, planning, visioning, and lack of due attention to natural resource management (management plans, etc.). After Cox is finished compiling this information and handing it out to the board, he would like to discuss how to move forward with strategic planning involving the board and staff.

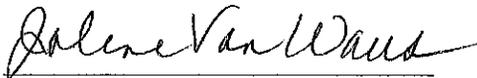
FEMA repairs are ongoing on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. The contractor was on site last week.

A very productive "after action review" regarding the recent drowning at Hickory Grove was held earlier in the day. Rangers Carter, Williams, Eighmy, Wiemold, Director Cox, Sheriff Fitzgerald, Lieutenant Ellis, and SCC Safety Chair Kooiker had a good discussion on how the response worked. Improved signage using universal symbols will be placed at launch sites and on all rental boats. Boaters already receive personal flotation devices and are told rules. Fines will continue to be issued for people swimming outside the beach.

Cox announced the resignation of Program Support Coordinator Amber Tiarks, who will be going to work for ISU as an academic advisor. Her last day in the office will be August 12, and Cox said she will be missed. Financial Data Coordinator Van Waus and Cox have briefly discussed how to move forward. In the short term, some tasks will be handled by other staff, and Office Assistant Erickson will work extra hours through the end of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by W. Clinton, SECOND by J. Pease, to adjourn the meeting. Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.



Recording Secretary

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