

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, December 6, 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	STAFF	GUESTS
Wayne Clinton – present	Steve Lekwa	None
Erin Wilgenbusch – absent	Jolene Van Waus	
Ted Tedesco – present	Rose Danaher	
Joyce Hornstein – present	Joe Kooiker – arrived 7:20	
Don Toms – present		

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The chair acknowledged Rose Danaher, seasonal IRVM employee.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

Chair Clinton noted additional budget information and the winter *Prairie Horizons*.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hornstein noted that the word "as" in "harvest and held as two public seed harvests" on page 3, Section 14, line 3 needs to be deleted.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by D. Toms to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2010 meeting as corrected. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

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

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

Director Lekwa pointed out and explained overruns in several budget categories:

Uniforms & Equipment (294) – clothing items for several new staff plus law enforcement uniforms and equipment for Ryan Wiemold to attend the law enforcement academy.

Education and Training (422) – Law enforcement academy training for Wiemold and purchase of Eighmy's law enforcement contract from Decatur County.

Grounds Maintenance (440) – Tile work and fencing on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. Depending on the situation, SCC has to pay 50-100 percent of these costs.

IRVM Overtime – Staff worked weekends to finish hydroseeding on road construction sites. Lekwa added that IRVM has been struggling to do the work of two people.

Lekwa said FEMA repairs and reimbursements should be completed this fiscal year. Three of the four 2010 flood projects have been approved by FEMA with 75 percent federal funding, 10 percent state funding, and 15 percent local match.

Clinton urged that budgeted items be completed this year. Lekwa added that savings in equipment purchases would be utilized towards cost overruns in other areas.

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Chair Clinton noted the earlier start time for the January 10 meeting and reminded board members of open house receptions for Jane Halliburton on December 7 and December 28.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Reporting on phone conversations with regional Pheasants Forever Biologist Jared Wiklund, Lekwa said that Pheasants Forever will be closing on the acquisition of a 30-acre addition to Cooper's Prairie Marsh (one mile southwest of Milford school) on December 28. Lekwa arranged for the abstract and title opinion locally, and the deed will go directly to Story County.

Lekwa informed the board of a meeting being held in McCallsburg tonight re: the Praeri Rail Trail. Supervisors Jane Halliburton and Paul Toot will be sitting in on this meeting. Lekwa prepared a historical background on the acquisition and management of the area and the lease agreement for the right-of-way that defines the responsibilities and access rights of Story County Conservation and Secondary Roads. Lekwa added that SCC will be involved as this discussion moves forward.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11. APPROVE FY2011 STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING DATES
MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by T. Tedesco, to approve Story County Conservation Board meeting dates for 2011 as presented noting the three early start times. MCU.

Hornstein announced that the IACCB fall conference is September 15-18, 2011 in Buchanan County. She will check on the date and location of the spring workshop so board members can add this information to their calendars. Tedesco stated he will be absent for the February meeting.

12. APPROVE STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION FY12 BUDGET PROPOSALS
Projected revenue was discussed with Financial Data Coordinator Van Waus explaining categories and Director Lekwa pointing out changes from FY11. Lekwa noted that, beginning in FY12, SCC will receive farm income from the Jennett tract (about 80 acres). That will be a declining number as more acres are taken out of production for habitat.

Lekwa reviewed the expense budget proposal and answered questions from the board. Tedesco suggested a business in northern Iowa that sells heavy equipment as a source for the proposed backhoe. Lekwa noted that two ranger pickups were on the vehicle replacement schedule but are being held longer and for more miles. Conservation reserve funds, along with REAP and trust fund income, will be used towards paying a \$300,000 loan to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for the Dakins Lake acquisition. Infrastructure repairs and expansion will be delayed until more planning is done. J. Hornstein suggested a tour of the board's facilities to get a first-hand look at some of the proposed projects. Lekwa said that perhaps this could be combined with an orientation tour early in 2011 with the new board member.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to approve the FY12 Conservation budget proposal. MCU.

Joe Kooiker distributed blank worksheets to board members and suggested amounts for the FY12 IRVM budget proposal. Board members said they wanted to see written narrative

before approving the budget proposal and set up a conference call for Wednesday, December 8 at 3:30 p.m. The conference call will be initiated from Wayne Clinton's office.

13. HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL PROGRESS

Lekwa was happy to report that the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail is close to being done! National Trails Day on June 4, 2011 will feature the opening of the Skunk River Bridge. As soon as the fencing is in and a walk-through is completed with the contractor, the trail will be open for public use.

14. TIMELINE FOR DIRECTOR VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

This item was tabled.

15. DIRECTION OF FOCUS GROUPS

Tedesco reported that he sent information from the anglers' meeting he attended to board member Wilgenbusch. He is interested in meeting with other groups.

16. OTHER

Director Lekwa presented outgoing board member Don Toms with a framed print, stating that Toms was an advocate of water quality and fishing and also served a term as a director on the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards. Board members congratulated Toms and thanked him for his service to Story County Conservation.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board