

Story County Conservation Board
Monday, February 18, 2010
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

1. Chair W. Clinton called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Wayne Clinton – present	Steve Lekwa	
Erin Wilgenbusch – absent	Amber Tiarks	
Ted Tedesco – present		
Joyce Hornstein – present		
Don Toms – present		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
There were no guests present.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
Clinton reviewed agenda and handouts.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by D. Toms, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting. 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
In response to Clinton's inquiry regarding excessive spending, Lekwa noted the claims for Herberger Construction will be reimbursed. Tedesco asked if utility consumption comparisons from last year have been made. Lekwa said they had not.

MOTION by D. Toms, SECOND by T. Tedesco, to approve the financial reports and updates. MCU.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
The board members reviewed the upcoming schedule. Clinton reported he will be absent for the March meeting; Tedesco said his attendance is questionable. The county budget hearing is scheduled for March 11 at 6:30 p.m.
9. COMMUNICATIONS
There were no additional communications.
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.
11. DISCUSS FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO RETURN PORTION OF FEES TO THE CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND FOR LAND ACQUISITION

Lekwa explained how conservation reserve funds have been utilized since FY89. Clinton suggested attaching the chart on page F-16 to the formal request, if approved. Lekwa said when the reserve was utilized in the past, it was intended for a specific project, and the question with this request would be whether to designate funds for land acquisition only.

Clinton said tying the request to the Dakins Lake expansion is good because the only other option for purchasing the land from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is fundraising. Lekwa agreed, saying it would be good to demonstrate that we are contributing locally to the project. Tedesco prefers not to earmark money only for Dakins Lake but to give possible ideas of where the money could be used.

Tedesco questioned how this will affect the operating budget. Clinton responded that all revenue goes into the general fund, and this process asks that a portion of those revenues be returned. Instead of all the county departments using the general fund reserve, a specific conservation emergency reserve would be set aside. Clinton said the request could be in letter form with the code section cited in the letter. Tedesco confirmed that the request needs to be done annually and should be listed on the board calendar each January.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by D. Toms, to make the formal request for the revenues to come back to the conservation reserve account for the 2009-2010 budget year. AYES: Toms, Tedesco, Hornstein. ABSTAINING: Clinton. MOTION CARRIED.

Tedesco reiterated that if it's necessary to justify the request to the board of supervisors, he suggests requesting it not only for land acquisition but also for emergency projects or expenses.

Clinton stated that the only reason he would have to recuse himself from voting on this would be if the goals and objectives of this board conflicted with that of the board of supervisors. He said the conservation reserve funds would go into an account, and the board of supervisors would not have use of the money, only the interest. The conservation board would be able to determine how the conservation reserve funds are used. Lekwa confirmed that the board would go through the budget amendment process to obtain the funds.

12. APPROVE FIRST READINGS OF REVISIONS TO SCCB BYLAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, PERSONNEL POLICY, SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT POLICY, AND OPERATIONS MANUAL

Lekwa went through the highlights of the policy changes. He said that the wording on page F-22 was an attempt to make our policy more like state park camping policy and to get away from tightly defining a camping unit. He also clarified the \$20/site fee should be listed as per night, and that wording will be added on page F-24.

Page F-26 revises the current policy of closing due to inclement weather. Conservation's policy wording is changed to be closer to what the county policy reads. The bottom line is the county will not close unless the storm is such that I-35, I-80, and Highway 30 are closed and all plows are pulled off the roads. Clinton stated that the board of supervisors acknowledges that conservation facilities are located in more remote areas and weather conditions may be such that employees are unable to get to and from work safely.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by D. Toms, to approve first readings of revisions to SCCB By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Personnel Policy, Safety and Health Management

Policy, and Operations Manual as amended. MCU.

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by J. Hornstein, to amend the revisions to include that the Story County Conservation Board By-Laws, Article III, 3.6 shall read "Three (3) members personally present, **or in the case of extreme circumstance, present though telephone or video conference**, at any meeting of the members shall constitute a quorum." MCU.

13. HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION REPORT

SCC has been advised by the Iowa Department of Transportation that additional trail enhancement grant funding will be made available as soon as possible instead of waiting until the beginning of federal fiscal year in October. That means the project can be completed as soon as weather conditions allow for the contractor to return to the site.

14. CORPS OF ENGINEERS LAND TRANSFER REPORT

Lekwa said there has been some movement with the Corps of Engineers archeologist Jim Ross. Lekwa was sent a proposal by Steve Lensink, Office of the State Archeologist (OSA), that would allow the Corps to get beyond the process of individually testing each site by putting a single conservation easement on all 10 sites. Only two entities in the state are able to hold an easement such as this, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the OSA. This would require a \$15,000 endowment be given with each site, however, the Corps doesn't have endowment money for even one site. Lekwa has forwarded this to Congressman Latham's office and is awaiting information on whether they can help push this through.

15. OTHER

Lekwa reported that IACCB has named a committee, chaired by Tom Hazelton of Linn County, to look at the transition that will take place when Director Don Brazelton retires. The plan is for Brazelton to step back slowly and mentor a new director. Another issue is the financial stability of IACCB. It is anticipated that the current operating budget will have to be doubled and, at the current rate of depletion, reserve funds will be gone in a few years. Currently, all 99 counties are members. Increasing dues may help stabilize the depletion.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by T. Tedesco, SECOND by J. Hornstein to adjourn. MCU.

Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary

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