

STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park
Wednesday, May 30, 2012

1. Chair J. Pease called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Jim Pease – present
Ted Tedesco – present
Joyce Hornstein – present
Sandy Opstvedt – absent
Allen Weber – absent
Wayne Clinton – absent

STAFF

Mike Cox	Emily Herring	Ryan Wiemold
Joe Hill	Tiffany Cornelius	Amy Yoakum
Carol Williams	Beau Hoppe	Jessica Lancial
Russ DeWall	Melissa Johannes	Dustin Eighmy
Jerry Keys	Mike Eilderts	Joe Kooiker

3. Chair J. Pease swore in Ryan Wiemold as a county conservation peace officer.

4. Director Mike Cox reiterated the importance of the upcoming Dakins Lake expansion project. This will be the largest project undertaken since Hickory Grove with construction expected to begin next year. There is a public meeting in Zearing June 4. The next Story County Conservation Board meeting will be June 11, 2012 where the board is expected to vote on a final proposal. The board and staff discussed the three concepts proposed.

The wants for the park include:

- Tent camping away from both supervised youth camping and R.V. camping, with a view of the lake, running water, electricity, restrooms, access to the shower house, and access to the playground without crossing busy roads.
- Restrooms for day use as well as camping.
- Shower house accessible by both R.V. campers and tent campers.
- Fishery.
- Docks (discussed handicap accessibility, boat docks, fishing docks, and fish cleaning station).
- Signage to educate the public.
- Trails (all roads and trails would be gravel).
- Playground (discussed how many needed, a central location for use by all, areas for different-aged children, safety (not wanting it too close to the lake or where children would have to cross the main road to access it).
- Sustainability of buildings and grounds.
- R.V. camp sites - discussed the number needed, no sewer at the sites, but restrooms and a dump station, water and electricity at all sites, full hook-ups at the camp host site, the registration area not blocking the water like it is in concepts 1 & 2, a centralized shower house, and playground.
- Nice shelter house like Oriole at Hickory Grove, enclosable.
- Picnic areas.
- Public hunting (planned to remain on the northwest part of the park).

- Entrances on the east and south sides, used for emergency access as well.
- Swimming - although a public beach is not currently planned initially, the option of a water feature was discussed.

The concerns addressed:

- Erosion control.
- Watershed protection (project will greatly help water quality of the lake).
- Possibly sharing day use area with the events lawn to minimize maintenance needed.
- Water source being in the center of the R.V. camping area branching off into four quadrants with a small shed housing all the shut-offs for easier maintenance.
- The need to access both sides of the new and old lakes, minimal access will be available via the pedestrian bridge over the small joint for mowers, gators, etc, but no heavy equipment.
- The joint is planned to be small in order to help control the water quality.
- Restoring the remnant isn't in the proposal right now. It's currently heavy with honeysuckle, we will need to re-seed the prairie, with possibility of grants to help . Location of native seed sources and what to plant initially were discussed.
- Swimming - a public beach isn't currently planned and difficult to maintain, water quality issues were discussed, and the possibility of a water feature was discussed.
- Accessibility for year round use including ice fishing, cross country skiing, and other winter activities being available, possibility of leaving access on the east open for winter.
- Keeping the boat ramp on the existing lake as well as a new boat ramp on the new lake to allow boats on both parts of the lake, still with electric engines only.
- The existing trail isn't on the new concepts, but will be left as is.
- Concepts show future cabins. The cabins would need to have a good view of the lake, a private road to access, full amenities, and access to playground as well. Staff would like signage again to educate the public.
- Cost opinion shows 140 B&B trees for campground, however the survivability and possibilities of other types of trees were discussed.

Location of items discussed:

- Concept 3 has a road separating the cabins and lake; would prefer to move the cabins east, cut the road on the north off of the main road so instead of a loop the cabins would have a private drive.
- Cabins would not be able to sit on the east side where the current campground is because the sewer access will be on the west side of the lake.
- On concept 1 the events lawn could potentially be the cabins instead.
- Concepts 1 and 2 both have the registration area blocking the lake view. The registration area would need to be moved to open this area up for campers.
- Suggestion to keep day use area on the southwest side where the cabins are being shown.
- Suggestion to move the playground north to eliminate the need to cross the main road to access it from the R.V. campground.
- Suggestion to move the registration area onto the access road shown on concepts 1 and 2.
- The jetty location on concepts 1& 2 is better then that on concept 3. A fishing

- jetty needs to be by the campgrounds.
 - Move the shower house in the middle for convenience and safety with a shed for shut offs.
 - Tent camping needs to be spread out, not so close together, and separate from the supervised youth camping.
 - The trail in concept 1 is not liked, the trail in concept 2 is preferred, with possibility of expanding the trail south in the future.
 - The need and location for visitor or overflow parking.
 - The possibility of the district forester helping was discussed.
5. No other business was discussed.
6. Chair Pease adjourned the meeting at 4:24 pm.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board