

Story County Conservation Board
Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

1. Chair T. Tedesco called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	STAFF	GUESTS
Ted Tedesco – present	Amber Tiarks	Mike Meetz
Wayne Clinton – present	Carol Williams	Linda Meetz
Jim Pease – present	Rick Carter	
Erin Wilgenbusch – present		
Joyce Hornstein – present		
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Chair Tedesco welcomed guests and introduced Mike and Linda Meetz, and staff members Rick Carter, and Carol Williams.
4. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS
Chair Tedesco pointed out a supplemental packet and a copy of an Ames Tribune article about Steve Lekwa's retirement.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by W. Clinton, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2011 meeting. MCU.
6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS
MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve all claims and receipts as submitted. MCU.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES
Pease asked for clarification of the total in the conservation reserve fund. The Financial Data Coordinator will follow up with an email.
8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS
Carol Williams added two events to the calendar. Story County Conservation (SCC) *Partners* will sponsor a reception for Mike Cox, on August 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Also, the Jennett Heritage Area Dedication has been scheduled for Thursday, September 8, with the program at 6:30 p.m.
9. COMMUNICATIONS
None.
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Meetz inquired about the spraying at Cooper's Prairie Marsh. Rick Carter explained that a crew had sprayed and that, up until that point, SCC was not allowed to touch it due to a contract with the planting company. The contract also includes two maintenance mowings.

11. FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT TO STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION PERSONNEL POLICY

MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve First Reading of Amendment to Story County Conservation Personnel Policy regarding wellness days. MCU.

12. APPROVE BID FOR FEMA PROJECT REPAIRS ON HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL
Pease questioned whether these are areas that have already been repaired due to previous flooding. Williams responded that there is one spot of additional ditching reflected in this bid and that if the ditching is not done, chances are FEMA will have to revisit this in three years noting effects of the 2010 flood.

Hornstein asked if there are projects still in the mitigation process. Carter responded that areas on the Praeri Rail Trail and Heart of Iowa Nature Trail are currently in mitigation.

MOTION by W. Clinton, SECOND by J. Pease, to approve Bid for FEMA Project Repairs on Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. MCU.

13. APPROVE GRAZING AGREEMENT WITH FINCH LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE FOR PRESCRIBED GOAT GRAZING AT ROBISON WILDLIFE ACRES

Discussion was held on tightening the wording as it pertains to SCC's liability. Clinton suggested conferring with Steve Owen, noting the agreement can be terminated.

Williams said SCC *Partners* voted to match the memorial donation for fencing. Hornstein inquired whether the grazed honeysuckle will have to be treated with chemical. Williams and Carter agree the trial program will include grazing, spraying, mowing, or burning any re-growth.

MOTION by J. Pease, SECOND by E. Wilgenbusch, to approve Grazing Agreement with Finch Livestock Exchange for prescribed goat grazing at Robison Wildlife Acres. MCU.

14. APPROVE LETTER OF INTENT FOR STORY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Special Projects Ranger Williams said the enclosed letter of intent has been revised to include the City of Nevada and the Nevada Community School Board as sponsors. There is no financial responsibility at this time.

Extensive discussion was held regarding supplemental grants like REAP, overall support, future funding obligations, and the fact that the trail is not on conservation property and there is no written easement at this time.

Williams stated that this project has been on the bike/pedestrian plan since 2007 and the Story County REAP plan as it's part of Nevada's greenways plan, SCC already has many man hours on this project, and the Hertz family is ready for an easement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Clinton inquired as to the definition of the word sponsor as it relates to this grant. Williams responded that SCC has been listed as such before and has not been asked for a financial contribution. A fiscal aid is different than a sponsor; that's where one keeps track of money flow and reimbursements. Clinton stated he is uncomfortable with indirectly making a commitment when the director hasn't had an opportunity to look at long range plans and determine priorities for SCC.

Williams said allocating staff time is generous, but without a nominal monetary value in the letter, it doesn't look like SCC is really supporting the project. Williams also said the copy before the board members is the first draft and that there are currently three sponsors.

Wilgenbusch wants to make it very clear to other sponsors that, at this point, SCC is not in a position to commit financially to this project other than in-kind service in the way of Williams' time.

MOTION by J. Hornstein, SECOND by W. Clinton, to approve Letter of Intent for Story County Community Foundation if the wording is changed and SCC is listed as a fiscal agent only rather than a fiscal sponsor.

Ayes – Tedesco, Clinton, Pease, Hornstein
Nays – Wilgenbusch
Motion carried.

15. HOLIDAY WEEKEND REPORT

Tedesco requested a copy of the boat rental agreement to discuss at a future meeting and inquired where rules are posted at Hickory Grove.

Skunk River Unit Ranger Rick Carter reported that on the afternoon of Monday, July 4, 2011 at approximately 3:45 p.m., Park Ranger Dustin Eighmy received a report that someone was missing in the water. Once the situation was assessed, the at-capacity beach was shut down and other rangers, DNR officers, Story County deputies, fire and rescue, and three dive teams responded. The Story County Sheriff's office took over command.

A 23 year-old man was found at 9:05 p.m. An autopsy was done but a toxicology report was not available. A critical incident response team was organized and, once the director is back, staff will review policy, signage, and an overall assessment will be done.

Clinton reported that the county safety committee asked whether signs are, or might in the future be, posted in Spanish to identify where swimming is allowed.

Carter said it is truly a fishing lake with a swimming area. Jumping off boats is a constant problem and a \$5.00 wet fee is the only recourse.

16. OTHER

Pease noted an upcoming REAP meeting. If there are no grant proposals to review, they will just look over the county plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.