

1. **Call to Order**

David Riley, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation Board to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Starr's Cave Nature Center

Those Members Present: David Riley, Cathy Ziglar, Stacey Rector and Dennis Imler.

Those Members Absent: James Steer

Others Present: Elizabeth Snipes, Katherine Brakeville, Chris Lee, Kim Perlstein and Joel Behne

2. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda:**

- a. #11 New Business a., Witte Complex/Cooperative Management Agreement moved up to here. Elizabeth Snipes, President, introduced herself to the board as the representative of the Southeast Iowa Astronomy Club.

#12. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Dennis Imler, to approve Witte Cooperative Management Agreement with no changes for the upcoming year. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

3. **Delegations/Public Input:**

- a. None.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

#13 Motion by Dennis Imler, seconded by Stacy Rector, to approve the minutes of the January 4th, 2012 board meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

6. **Approval of Report of Activities for January 2012:**

#14 a. Motion by Stacey Rector, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the reports of activity for January 2012. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

7. **Approval of Claims for January 2012:**

#15 a. Motion by Dennis Imler, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the claims for January 2012. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

8. **Acceptance of Donations:**

- a. Herbert Stiefel Estate, Victor, IA. \$1,000 to be used for Starr's Cave Park & Preserve.
- b. Kent O. Rice & Katheryn R. Peck, Fairfield, IA \$200.00 for the Big Hollow One Million in One Year Fundraiser.
- c. Kent O. Rice & Katheryn R. Peck, Fairfield, IA \$100.00 for the Des Moines County Nature Trail.
- d. T.W. Stewart, Houston, TX. \$500.00 for the Big Hollow One Million in One Year Fundraiser.
- e. J.F. Barr, Burlington, IA. \$75.00 for the Big Hollow One Million in One Year Fundraiser.
- f. Alice M. Hillyer, Burlington, IA. \$100.00 for the Big Hollow One Million in One Year Fundraiser.
- g. Pzazz. Two \$50.00 Gift Certificates to be used as prizes for the 50th Anniversary kickoff event. Polar Plunge.
- h. John Giannettino. \$50.00 for the Big Hollow One Million in One Year Fundraiser.
- i. Doug Karle. Geode's ranging from acorn to fist size (65). Estimated Value \$140.00. Will be displayed at SCNC.
- j. Tim Manderscheid/Fleck Sales Branch Manager. 1 large DMCC 50th Anniversary logo banner valued at \$50.00
- k. Jerry Parks. \$20.00 Polar Plunge Donation for Big Hollow.
- l. The Ivy Bake Shoppe. Broccoli salad and 1 desert tray for DMCC's Annual Volunteer Diner. Valued at \$50.25

9. **Committee Reports:**
Shooting Range: Jim Steer absent. No report.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Dennis Imler- No report.
 Director Perlstein reported that she participated in a conference call with, DOT, The call was regarding mitigation. An MOA is being created by Wapsi Valley Archaeological on our behalf. No work can be done on the trail except for the ¼ mile area currently in question.
 Director Perlstein also met with Vision Iowa. They have given DMC Conservation a time limit extension to December 2012.
- c. **Observatory:** Ziglar – No report.
- d. **REAP:** Riley. Member Ziglar attended the R.E.A.P. Conference in Des Moines, IA. The meeting was held in the House chamber. Attendees had a broad range of experience. The overall theme of the day was the protection of water and land. Those present voted to full fund REAP for the next two years. A major topic of discussion was that of the Forest & Fruit Tree Reserve Tax Exemption Program. Much discussion on that topic both for and against. Both sides of the issue presented well. REAP Plates. There were several attendees that were unaware of the program. Need to promote and education on the existence of this program.

10. **Project Updates:**

- a. Operations Supervisor: Chris Lee reported:
- The field where the RV campground has now been cleared. Clearing has made it possible to truly see how this will lay out. Some dozer work could be accomplished at this time if the dollars were available. In-kind donations were brought up by Chairman Riley.
 - New Big Hollow signage is being made.
 - Training exercise for Rangers was completed with the Sheriff's Office personnel. Starr's Cave House was used as the arena for training.

11. **Old Business:**

- a. 50th Anniversary update:
- Polar plunge was held on January 21st. It was very successful and well attended. Supervisor Broeker brought in the most pledges and approximately \$1,600 was raised for this event.
 - Next scheduled event will be our ice fishing clinic; weather permitting. Gahn Pond.
 - A Wilderness Run of 6.2 miles will be held on April 7th. Ranger Rogge has organized a group of area runners to assist him with the planning and the run.
 - A "Take a KID Crappie Fishing Tournament has been scheduled for Sunday May 20th. Joel is planning that event.
 - Kim will be involved with several speaking engagements. Lots of exciting events will be happening.
- b. Budget update. Director updated the board on the progress of the current budget process.

12. **New Business:**

- a. Witte Complex/Cooperative Agreement. This business was completed under #2. a.
- b. Brakeville Hiring – Naturalist
 Katherine E. Brakeville was introduced to the board as the new Naturalist. Katherine gave the board an update on her past volunteer participation with Des Moines County Conservation and her recent graduation from Western IL University. The board members welcomed Katherine to Des Moines County Conservation.

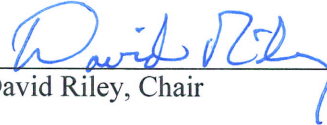
#16 Motion by Dennis Imler, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the hiring of Katherine E. Brakeville as the new Des Moines County Conservation Naturalist. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

13. **Informational Items/Correspondence/Board Comments:**

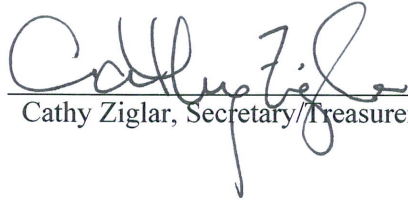
a. None

14. **Adjournment:**

#17 a. A motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Dennis Imler, to adjourn the February 01, 2012 board meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.



David Riley, Chair



Cathy Ziglar, Secretary/Treasurer