

1. Call to Order

Stacey Rector, 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: Stacey Rector, Cathy Ziglar, James Steer, Jim Garnjobst and LaVon Worley

Those Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Wiemer, Al Nielsen, Kent Rector, Katherine Brakeville, Pat Rogge, J.B. graham, Chris Lee, Kim Perlstein and Joel Behne

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

- a. None.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

- a. David Wiemer addressed the Board. He was there as a representative of the Partners for Conservation Foundation. David briefed the board as to the nature of the foundation and the make-up of the board members. David advised that the board is currently down a member and that although Jim Steer was on the board that a second Conservation Board Member could be on as well. David was actually asking to see if any of the board members might be interested in serving on the Partners for Conservation Board. If so he would stay for the remainder of the meeting and they could speak with him after this meeting was over.
- b. The Board presented Director Perlstein with a card and flowers and thanked her for her years of service to Des Moines County Conservation. A framed Jim Spring print was also presented to Director Perlstein. Kim thanked the board for allowing her to work with a great organization.

4. a. Approval of Minutes:

#10. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve the minutes of the January 09, 2013 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting:

#11. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2013 Special Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for Director for January 2013:

#12. a. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the Director's report of activity for January 2013. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for January 2013:

#13. a. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the EE Manager, Operations Supervisors and Natural Resource Manager's reports of activity for January 2013. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

6. Approval of Claims for January 2013:

#14. a. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the claims for January 2013. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations:

- a. Kent Rice/Katheryn Peck. \$50.00 for the Big Hollow Lake Project.
- b. Jill Colley. \$40.00 for the Big Hollow Lake Project
- c. Burlington Education Foundation. \$500.00 for the Leopold Heritage Group – Pfitzer Pheasants Forever, Aldo Leopold Chapter. \$100.00 for the Leopold Heritage Group – Pfitzer presentation.
- d.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Steer reported that SRAC held a meeting on January 17th. The improvements to the 25 and 50 yard ranges were discussed. Jim outlined the expenditures for range improvements:

- \$10,000 for earthwork.
- \$3,000 for Shelter re-alignment
- \$1,000 for new sand on the berm faces
- \$400 for new concrete

Director Lee added that Jerry Edle donated over \$7,000 in additional earthwork for the berms. Members also discussed their By-Laws and Safety Plan. Noted that the 2 grants had been submitted.

- b. **Flint River Trails:** Jim Garnjobst reported that on January 23rd he took a rolling tour of the trail with Director Perlstein, Brian Carter and Chris Lee. Jim advised the board that he was very impressed with the trail. Work will start again and will focus on concrete approaches between properties, two bridges, gates and signage.

A tour will be conducted for Board Members and Staff when the trail is dry or frozen enough to permit access to the actual trail.

March 11, 2013 is the tentative date that has been set for the Trail Committee to meet.

- c. **Observatory:** Cathy Ziglar reported that the yearly meeting will be held on February 11, 2013.
- d. **REAP:** Stacey Rector had no report.

9. Project Updates:

Operations Supervisor/Director Lee reported:

Staff is currently working on a Picnic Table Overhaul process. There are 150 plus picnic tables in need of reworking.

2 – Interns and 1 – Volunteer are working with staff on the table project. 40 hours of labor per week are currently being donated by those individuals.

Chris reported that he and both rangers will be attending an NRA Range Officer Training on February 16th in Homestead, Iowa.

Received word from Des Moines that the Shooting Range Grants that he had submitted had been received. There were 14 grants received with a total monetary request of \$417,000. There is \$82,100 available to allocate to those grants selected for funding.

10. Old Business:

- a. **By-Laws:** A work session will be scheduled to review the board by-laws.
- a. **Safety Plan Draft.** Jim Garnjobst advised that he has now received comments from all those who have, once again, reviewed and submitted corrections, changes, additions and deletions to the first draft. A work session with the Shooting Range Advisory Committee to go over these changes will be scheduled for early this spring.

New Business:

- a. MVAC: The Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between MVAC and Des Moines County Conservation have been reviewed by all board members. Chairman Rector signed and dated two (2) original documents on behalf of the Des Moines County Conservation Board. Those documents as well as a settlement check in the amount of \$8,000 will be forwarded to MVAC for signature.
- #15. a. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between MVAC. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

New Business Continued

- b. Summer Camp Fees: Camp fees have been static for the past several years. It was recommended that camp fees be increased by \$5.00.
- #16. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the recommended \$5.00 per camp additional increase to Summer Camp Fees. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

c. Gahn Public Hearing

Director Lee addressed the board regarding a public hearing to address the subject of the proposed Gahn Property Shooting Range Facility. Chris has been in touch with Ben Burka, IDNR for information on the different ways to conduct a public hearing on the shooting range proposal. Ultimately there will be the requirement of a public forum. Chris outlined several ways to accomplish the process.

After discussion it was determined that a work session should be scheduled with the Board to outline the needs that this new range facility will provide for the community and how it might impact all of our citizens.

Director A work session will be scheduled for a date in the near future to discuss and outline this entire process.

d. Sick Time Policy:

Director Perlstein advised the board that Supervisor Beck had, in January, requested that the language in the Conservation Departments Policy on Sick Leave be made the same as that in currently existing union contracts.

The current union contract states, in part: “ ACCRUAL/ ACCUMULATION: Employees shall earn sick leave at the rate of seven and one-half (7.5) hours per two (2) week pay period in which sick leave in excess of 7.5 hours is not used. (For the Conservation department and for others with 8 hour work days, the 7.5 becomes 8.) Employees may accumulate up to a maximum of 1237.5 hours of sick leave. (That maximum would be 1320.0 for those with 8 hour work days) Sick leave may be used in 1 hour increments.

Director Perlstein advised the board that primary difference in that as written above and Conservations Policy is that Conservation Staff accrue even if they use more than one day. Conservation Staff is currently allowed 8 hours per pay period and the maximum accrual rate is 1560 hours. One half of those accrued hours are paid as a benefit upon retirement.

- #17 Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to change the language in the Conservation Staff’s sick Time Policy to mirror that of the currently negotiated union sick time policy language; as written on this date. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

New Business Continued:

e. Range Reservation Request:

A request by Detective Hamma of the Des Moines County Sheriff's Office has been made regarding a Law Enforcement 'Top Gun' shoot to be held on May 04, 2013. The request is for the use of both the 25 and 50 yard ranges to be reserved.

#18. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the request for the 'Top Gun' Event. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

f. Request for Alcohol at SCNC

Tyler French as requested permission to have beer/wine at his son's birthday party.

#19. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the request for permission to have beer/wine at SNCN. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

13. Informational Items/Correspondence/Board Comments:

a. Letter from Observatory. A letter and two brochures from the Witte Observatory Board were presented to the board, as requested, for their information. The letter was regarding the Downtown Partners lighting project.

b. Budget Update. Director Lee updated the board regarding the FY13/14 budget process. Supervisors have asked each department to cut their proposed budget by 4% to 5%. Director is in the process of reviewing the proposed Conservation budget for those cuts. Those new updates need to be provided to the Auditor's Office by Friday, February 8, 2013.

c. LaVon Worley thanked those who had been able to attend the program at the Aldo Leopold Middle School. He advised that Storyteller Jim Pfitzer had an excellent presentation.

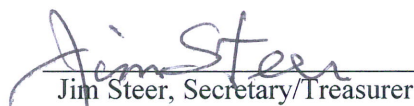
d. Jim Steer thanked Director Perlstein for her service and wished her success in her future endeavors.

14. Adjournment:

#20. **a.** A motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to adjourn the February 06, 2013 board meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Stacey Rector, Chair



Jim Steer, Secretary/Treasurer