

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: Supervisor Beck, Kent Rector, Director Lee and Joel Behne

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

a. None

3. Delegations/Public Input:

a. None

4. a. Approval of Minutes:

#40. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the minutes of the April 03, 2013 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for April 2013:

#41. a. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve the reports of activity for April 2013. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

6. Approval of Claims for April 2013:

#42. a. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the claims for April 2013. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations:

- a. John Witte Foundation c/o US Bank. \$2,000 for Earth Day 2013.
- b. Jim Garnjobst. 4 - Blue Bird houses. Valued at \$15.00 each. Total donation \$60.00
- c. Jim Steer. 2 - 2x10' Solid PVC Pipe and 5 - 7' Studded T Posts. 4 - Blue bird houses. Total donation \$95.00
- d. Subway (Kevin Thie) Cookies for Wilderness Run estimated value \$125.00
- e. Sign Tech, (Scott Noll) Designed logo for Big Hollow Wilderness Run. Two hours labor.
- f. Mitty's Trophy Case. Twenty-Four medals and Engraving for Wilderness Run. Valued at \$75.00
- g. Fleck Sales Company. Sponsorship Banner for Wilderness Run. Estimated value \$25.00
- h. F & M Bank & Trust. Cash Donation of \$100.00 for Wilderness Run to defray cost of T-shirts.
- i. Corporate Medical Services of SE Iowa. \$300.00 Cash Donation for Wilderness Run to defray cost of T-shirts.
- j. Bickel's Cycling and fitness. Six Gift Certificates and discount coupons. Valued at \$590.00. Wilderness Run.
- k. Advanced Chiropractic Center. Cash Donation of \$200.00 for Wilderness Run to defray cost of T-shirts.
- l. Running Wild. Seven Gift Certificates and 100 discount coupons. Valued at \$105.00. Wilderness Run.

8. **Committee Reports:**
- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Steer, No report.
 - b. **Flint River Trails:** Jim Garnjobst reported that he met with Jay Duke and Director Lee for a tour of the trail. Both bridges have been completed. There was some water damage as a result of the recent heavy rains. There will need to be some resurfacing. Would like to open the trail by the 3rd week of May.
 - c. **Observatory:** Cathy Ziglar reported that the summer schedule is filling up quickly for those members manning the observatory.
 - d. **REAP:** Stacey Rector. No report.

9. **Project Updates:**
Director Lee:

- Wilderness Run was again a successful event even though there were only half as many entrants as last year. Weather had a lot to do with the number of participants.
- Cabin is moving forward. Operations Supervisor Graham and Kevin More are currently working on interior trim and doing some seal coating of doors. Finish work being completed.
- Shooting Range. Berm has been seeded. Rain has slowed that process down. Washout due to heavy rain has been repaired. Straw blankets have been placed.
- Conservation Technician Position Job Interviews have been completed. Many good applicants.
- Bids for the Electric work to RV Sites have been sent. Bids will be received in late May.
- Leaky Pond, Natural Resource Manager Andrew Mason's past year completed grant project, has filled and appears to be holding water as desired.
- Rains and the flash flooding of the Flint Creek had closed SCNC for a couple of days. There was no major damage to parking lot or shelter area.

10. **Old Business:**

- a. **Big Hollow Revenue to Conservation Reserve Fund.**
The resolution has been passed by the Board of Supervisors allowing Conservation to place funds generated from Big Hollow for future project use. Supervisor Beck advised this was a good plan and will help with the continued growth of the Big Hollow Recreation Area.

11. **New Business:**

- a. **Operations Supervisor.** Director Lee reported to the board that J.B. Graham had been promoted to Operations Supervisor. Graham was not available for this meeting due to a death in his family.
- #43. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the promotion of J.B. Graham to the position of Operations Supervisor. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

New Business - Continued

b. Conservation Technician Position.

All applicants for the Conservation Technician have been received and reviewed. Several applicants were interviewed. Two were interviewed on site for a practical application review.

An offer has been made and accepted. The new Conservation Technician, Jeremy Yost, is coming from the NW corner of Iowa and will start his employment with Des Moines County on May 20th. His starting wage will be \$32,000 and at the end of his six (6) month probationary period be raised to \$33,000.

#44. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the hiring of Jeremy Yost to the position of Conservation Technician at the wage listed above. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

c. Fee Increase: Climbing Wall. Environmental Education/Public Relations Manager Kent Rector requested that he be allowed to raise the current climbing wall fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00. He further requested to be allowed to raise the Parent-Tot program fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00 as well. The prices have been \$3.00 for many years and he believes it is time to raise it to reflect current economic value. After discussion by the board a motion was made.

#45. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve raising the fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00 for both the Climbing Wall and Parent-Tot programs being provided by Des Moines County Conservation Environmental Education. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

d. Compensation. Director Lee reported to the board that the Unions have apparently ratified their existing contracts for wage and benefits. The compensation board has also made recommendations for the elected officials. The Board of Supervisors have approved variations of those recommendations for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

After discussion it was determined that the board would benefit from a work session regarding potential compensation for conservation staff. The board would then better understand what has been approved by other union and non-union groups for the upcoming FY. A work session has been scheduled at 3:00 p.m. which is prior to the next regularly scheduled board meeting. That board meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on June 12, 2013 at the Administration building on Washington Road.

12. Informational Items/Correspondence/Board Comments:

a. Free Camping Weekend.

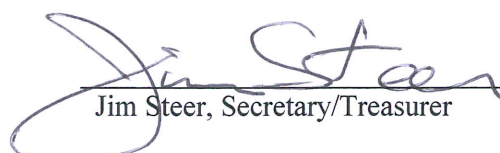
Director Lee reported that DMC Conservations Free Camping Weekend normally is coordinated with the State of Iowa's Free Fishing Weekend. This year that weekend will be June 7, 8th and 9th. This item will be on the agenda on June 12th

13. Adjournment:

#46. **a.** A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by LaVon Worley, to adjourn the May 01, 2013 board meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Stacey Rector, Chair



Jim Steer, Secretary/Treasurer