

1. Call to Order

Cathy Ziglar, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation Board to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Des Moines County Conservation Administration Building.

Those Members Present: Cathy Ziglar, James Steer, Jim Garnjobst, Angela Vaughan and LaVon Worley

Those Members Absent: None

Others Present: Brakeville, Yost, Director Lee and Office Manager Behne

2. a. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

Add: New Business, 11g - Events on the Shooting Range. Requested by Director Lee

3. a. Delegations/Public Input:

None

4. a. Approval of Minutes for March 05, 2014:

#25. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve the minutes of the March 05, 2014 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for March 2014:

#26 a. Motion by, LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the reports of activity for March 2014. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. Approval of Claims for March 2014:

#27. a. Motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve the claims for March 2014. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a. Pat Mayle. \$10.00 donation 3rd donation for 2014.
- b. Derek Bothelho. \$40.00 To be used for the Wildlife Rehabilitation program.
- c. Alliant Energy Foundation. \$1,500.00 2013 Community Grant - Making Paddling Possible. Will be used for canoes for programs and possibly public rentals.
- d. Izaak Walton League. \$250.00 for SCNC EE Programs. \$250.00 of DNR Tracks Program.
- e. Sandra Dumse. \$365.00. To be used for the Wildlife Rehabilitation program.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Steer reported that an Advisory Committee had been held. Minutes from that meeting had been sent to all members. The primary discussion was regarding the use of ATV's on the ranges which will be discussed later in the meeting. Advisory Committee was ok with the ATV policy that was sent to them for review.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Jim Garnjobst reported that they had checked the trail while putting up blue bird boxes. Trail looks good after a hard winter. The parking area is very soft at this time. Receiving many good comments from different citizens

- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley passed out a copy of the calendar. He is working a getting a date for the board to take a tour and utilize the facility. He reported that Observatory volunteers are working on the door at the Stone/Kelly Observatory. It will be closed temporarily. The other observatories will remain open. The newsletter and calendar have been published for this month and all members received email copies of that newsletter.

SEIAC has a possible speaker coming in. Steve Spangler, from the U of I. SEIAC has approached him to give a presentation.

- d. **REAP:** Cathy Ziglar. No report to give. However regarding REAP Funding Legislation does not appear to be going anywhere. Chairman Ziglar will continue to check on any potential funding progress and report as information becomes available.

9. Project Updates: By Director Lee

a. **Baker Property :**

- No major changes. Director has received the signed and executed DOT agreement.
- Early April LAWCON grant info will be available. Whatever those results are will allow us to determine what our next steps will be.
- DOT appears content to sign off on the Environmental Assessment as we are only acquiring land and no imminent development on our agenda. This, if we get the LAWCON grant, should assist in our final acquisition of the Baker property.

b. **Big Hollow:**

- The open house for the cabin was a great success. Estimated 60 for this initial turnout. Director Lee reported that every weekend now to the end of June and others through the remaining camping season have been reserved. Several of the reservations are repeats through the summer.
- One local Girl Scout Group has reserved it for three different occasions. Those who came for the open house indicated they were very pleased and the major question was "...when will there be more cabins?" Staff is familiarizing themselves with the logistics of the reservation, cleaning and readying the cabin for those next reserving the cabin.
- The most recent Shooting Range Certification Course had 57 new paid members. The membership continues to be very popular. The ranges are being utilized daily.
- Lake and ponds are now completely ice free. Some fish kill but it appears to be a normal number for this harsh of winter.
- Campgrounds were opened April 01. Water and utilities are available as are the camping coupon booklets. Several booklets have been sold to date. A water line will soon be routed from an existing Rathbun source at BH to the RV campground. The first pull through area will become the check in site and that will allow campers to fill up while they are registering instead of requiring them go to another location. The water line will be large enough to continue throughout the RV park for future expansion.

c. **DNR Wildlife Diversity Grant:**

Director reported that he received confirmation on this date that the crew leader of the Conservation Corps has tentatively set the week of October 13 to be on site at Big Hollow. He will have a six person crew on site for five days. The contract was signed today and will be sent as soon as he receives confirmation from staff regarding those dates.

d. **Other:**

Starr's Cave. The Murray Foundation has rescheduled their grant review to April 8th. Director will have more to report once we find out if our grant request was accepted. If we receive grant the process for our project will most probably not start until after camping season.

The next Phase of the FRT will take it through Starr's Cave Park and Preserve. A concept statement has been submitted. That statement will now probably need to have changes made due to uncertainties with what DOT may or may not do at or with a new highway crossing. Concept statement changes will need to reflect just the boundaries of the SCP&P property. As most, if not all, of the monies being utilized in this project are federal dollars it has triggered a review of the area by DOT. Previous preliminary archaeological studies by the preserve board were discovered on file from the early 90's and will now require ever further examinations. As GIS was not a tool used at that time the locations now need better identification. If after further examination a trail is allowed this phase will continue. If this preliminary examination determines we cannot we need to be prepared to not spend funds within the SCP&P. The trail would then need to proceed on alternate site or route. An MOA for this will be required if it goes forward through SCP&P.

Any additional archaeology studies to be completed will not need an RFP. DOT is comfortable with whom we are working, Wapsi Valley, and negates that need. They are on DOT's pre-qualified list. Director Lee will continue to follow-up on this project.

10. Old Business: Suspense Calendar

A work session was held at 4:30 p.m. prior to this meeting. IT specialist from SCC, Chuck Chrisman attended to provide the board with some suggestions regarding a suspense calendar. Chuck presented several program ideas that are free to a user and one that he particularly liked himself.

He had worked on it a bit during this day and started utilizing it with some of his own staff members. He liked the versatility and functionality of this internet program. The name of this program is WIGGIO. Chuck explained that this site states

"...This platform was designed to be easy and straightforward, even for the least tech-savvy members of your group. It provides everything you need to work productively in your groups, without bogging you down with complexities and unnecessary features."

Director Lee reviewed with the board another program, Asana that he has been working with in house with the staff. It is currently working out well. After discussion it was determined that Director Lee would continue to move forward and interact electronically with the board for the next month. This will allow members to use and try the different processes to see how well they will work to achieve the requested and desired results.

11. New Business:

a. **ATV's on Shooting Range; policy**

An ATV policy for the 100 yard and 300 meter shooting range has been written. The Shooting Range Advisory Committee has reviewed it and passed it on to the board. Board members have all had an opportunity to review the policy as written and presented.

Board member Steer indicated he was pleased with the wording and the requirements set forth within the policy. This will allow those who truly need the assistance getting back and forth on our ranges to use it properly and continues to promote Des Moines County Shooting Ranges as user friendly.

#28. A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to accept the ATV Policy as written and presented. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

b. Marketing Plan

Director Lee has been working on a Marketing Plan during the past months. This has been and he wishes it to be a continuing work in progress. Board Members have reviewed the written plan. This presentation was the Directors request for Board input. In discussion the board was pleased with the document, had a couple of suggestions. 1. Target for increases and 2. Assign responsibility of that part of the project as applicable. The board encouraged Director Lee to move forward with this marketing plan.

c. Request for Alcohol SCNC - Brakeville

#29. A motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve beer and wine at the Brakeville gathering. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

d. Top Gun; Range reservation request

#30. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve closing the 25 and 50 yard shooting ranges on May 09, 2014 for the 2014 Top Gun Event. The Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

e. Letter of Resignation; Mason

Director Lee announced that Natural Resource Manager Andrew Mason has submitted his letter of resignation effective April 11, 2014. With reluctance the letter was accepted by the Des Moines County Conservation Board with best wishes to Andrew.

#31. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to accept the Letter of Resignation by Natural Resource Manager; Andrew Mason. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

f. Gahn Property

#32. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Steer, to table discussion on the Gahn Property until the next meeting. Motion passed with members, Vaughan, Steer and Worley Aye. Garnjobst Nay.

g. Events at shooting range added under Additions and Deletions by Director Lee.

A request by GLS Defense Training.com has been made requesting the use of our shooting ranges. An actual date has not been set as this is the first request. This company is from Illinois. Instructors are former law enforcement officers. This group conducts this during a two day course of intensive training. Skills taught are for Personal Protection, CCW and if held here it would also include Des Moines County's Shooting Range Certification Course with participants being able to purchase a membership after completion.

After discussion it was determined that it would be acceptable if DMC Conservation hosted this event along with our Sheriff's Office and that all range and insurance requirements were properly satisfied.

#33. A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to authorize this event as outlined above. Motion passed with members, Vaughan, Steer and Garnjobst Aye. Worley Nay.

12. Informational Items/Correspondence/Board Comments:

a. ISAC Conference Report, Lee.

Director Lee provided a report on his ISAC conference with the board information.

b. LaVon Worley advised that the open house event he had spoken of at a previous meeting that was to have been held at the Port Louisa on April 22 has been postponed.

c. May 29th the Leopold Heritage Group will host Stan Temple, a Fellow with the University of Wisconsin as a guest speaker. The presentation will be on the "Extinction of the Passenger Pigeon" at 7:00 p.m. at SCNC.

13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

#34 A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Angela Vaughan to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members.

Next meeting will be held at the Des Moines County Administration Office at 13700 Washington Road in West Burlington, IA. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on May 7th, 2014. The public is welcome.

Cathy Ziglar, Chair

Jim Garnjobst, Secretary/Treasurer