

1. Call to Order

Cathy Ziglar, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation Board to order at 5:32 p.m. at the Des Moines County Conservation Administration Building.

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

Those Members Absent: None

Others Present: Supervisor Beck, J.B. Graham, John Mercer, Chris Lee and Office Manager Behne

2. a. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

See informational items.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

- a. J.B. Graham, whose employment ended on July 31, 2014 as an Operations Supervisor/Park Ranger for Des Moines County Conservation, addressed the Board regarding the Park Ranger Contract that he had signed upon employment. Has a concern that he wasn't given the contract by then Director Perlstein upon his hiring and that it was sent to him after he had started the ILEA in January of 2010. He wanted to give the board a chance to reconsider the requested buyout of his academy costs.
- b. John Mercer IV introduced himself to the Board Members. He started work with Des Moines County Conservation. The Board Members welcomed to Des Moines County Conservation.

4. a. Approval of Minutes for July 02, 2014:

#60. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve the minutes of the July 02, 2014 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for July 2014:

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

6. Approval of Claims for June 2014:

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

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a. Murray Foundation. \$5,000. Leopold Circle @ Aldo Leopold Middle School.
- b. Pat Mayle. Two (2) Monthly donations. \$25.00 total. Wildlife Rehabilitation.
- c. Corporate Medical Services of SE IA PC. \$250.00. Sponsorship fee – BH Wilderness Run 2014.
- d. David Riley. \$2,000 for the Leopold Heritage Group.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Steer – No report.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Jim Garnjobst – No report.
- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley – No report.
- d. **REAP:** Cathy Ziglar. Reported that the REAP grant deadline is August 15th.

9. Project Updates: By Director Lee

- a.. Baker Project.
 - Appraisal issues have arisen between the IDNR, IDOT and locally contracted McGovern of Burlington. They are being worked out at this time

- b. Big Hollow. The park continues to be busy. The Cabin, RV and Primitive campgrounds have all been heavily used this season. Katherine held a summer camp at BH and the participants were able to use the New Nucanoes. The campers were thrilled to get out on the water. Progress continues within the park.
- c. Starr's Cave Nature Center. Summer Camps concluded. More work on the Nature Center, Office relocation will move forward during this fall. The original designs for the Nature Center were located. Chris will continue to make contact with SCC or BCHS to see about the proposed CAD Drawings. This will need to be done prior to seeking permission from the IDNR.
- d. Flint River Trail. Patrick Moore, Part Time Summer Employee is working out well with the minimal hours he has available. The field work has been completed on the SCP&P property. No major finds and the archaeologists advised they are going to re-write the property findings from this most recent study.
- e. Other. The boat ramp parking and access have all been rocked and restored from the recent flooding and weather events. The ramps are now open and the docks are out. Hoping for a nice fall so the boaters can utilize them. Conservation does not intend to pursue FEMA assistance.

10. Old Business:

- a. SCP&P Management Agreement.
The management agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Several changes were made to include the County Board of Supervisors being on the signature line for this new document. IDNR has reviewed it and given the document a thumbs up.

- #63. a. Motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the Starr's Cave Park & Preserve Management Plan. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

11. New Business:

- a. **Personnel Action, Mercer.**
John E. Mercer IV has been hired to fill the Conservation Technician's position. Start date of August 01, 2014. Board of Supervisors has already approved the personnel action at their meeting on Tuesday July 29, 2014. Board action is to make it official on this end.

- #64. A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve the hiring of John E. Mercer for the Conservation Technician Position. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

- b. **REAP Grant**

A final draft of the REAP grant has been made available for all Board Members to review. It was requested that any changes be submitted by Friday August 8, 2014. The Final document will be completed and forwarded as required.

- #65. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve what will soon be the completed REAP Grant Application. Motion approved unanimously by all members present. After the motion was approved Chairwoman Ziglar signed the REAP Grant.

- c. **Pohren Estate & Donation**

The final Pohren Estate payout and anticipated donation has been determined. The amount of \$18,828.29 will be the amount Des Moines County Conservation will be receiving. The Board was requested to make a determination as to where the funds should be deposited and to what end the dollars are to be used for.

- #66. **A motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve depositing the Pohren Estate Donation into the Partners for Conservation Foundation under a separately named account heading. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.**

d. FEMA Buyout Properties – Conservation Properties

A work session was held on Monday in which FEMA properties held by the Des Moines County Conservation Board were viewed during individual onsite visits. Discussion was held as to what to or not do with these properties. It was determined during the visits that at least one property owner has been encroaching for commercial purposes on a County held Property. The following motion was made by Jim Garnjobst.

Jim Garnjobst moved that the Board request the County Attorney's Office to write a letter to the violator requesting that they vacate county property by 01 September 2014. That the letter make note that this is the second notice of trespassing since the party had been warned previously by the Conservation Department. Any further violations will be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent.

#67. A motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve the motion as written above. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Timber Survey – Conservation properties

Jim Garnjobst presented a motion directing the Conservation Staff to appraise timber holdings under the department's management for the possibility of harvest, the timing of a harvest and the estimated cash return to the department of such a harvest. Also gain a sample of the contract or agreement buyers use in such transactions. The areas of consideration should include the acquired FEMA properties and any other properties the staff may consider as a candidate. The information obtained to be directed to be gathered and presented to the Board when completed.

#68. A motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve the motion as written above. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

12. Informational Items/Correspondence:

- a. IAACB District V Ballots have been provided as requested by a notice from IACCB. Board is encouraged to vote. District V representative is running for the board again, unopposed.
- b. Annual Report will be on the agenda for the September 03, 2014 meeting.
- c. End of the year budget was approximately \$31,000 returned to the general fund.
- d. Chairwoman Ziglar shared an email from Jim Belger. He explained that his daughter and company had spent some time at the Big Hollow Cabin and truly enjoyed themselves.
- e. A Special Board Meeting was scheduled for Monday August 11th at 12:30 p.m. at the Administration Office to discuss the Park Rangers Contract.

13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

#69. A motion by Jim Garnjobst, 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 September 03, 2014. The public is welcome.

Cathy Ziglar, Chair

Jim Garnjobst, Secretary/Treasurer