

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, James Steer and Jim Garnjobst

Those Members Absent: Angela Vaughan and LaVon Worley

Others Present: John Mercer, Chris Lee and Office Manager Behne

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

None

3. **Delegations/Public Input:**

a.

NOTE: Board Chair voted on motions so that a quorum was present for all formal business.

4. a. **Approval of Minutes for November 06, 2014:**

#95. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the minutes of the November 06, 2014 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. **Approval of Report of Activities for November 2014:**

#96 a. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer to approve the reports of activity for November 2014. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. **Approval of Claims for November 2014:**

#97. a. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve the claims for November 2014. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

8. **Acceptance of Donations**

None

9. **Committee Reports:**

a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Steer - A meeting has been scheduled in early December.

b. **Flint River Trails:** Jim Garnjobst - No report.

c. **Observatory:** No report.

d. **REAP:** Cathy Ziglar - No report.

10. **Project Updates: By Director Lee**

a.. **Leopold Recreation Area.**

At the meeting on Tuesday December 02, 2014 the Supervisors approved an amendment for the purchase of the land.

The abstract is currently being updated and the County Attorney will complete an opinion once returned from the Abstract Company. Closing on the purchase with National Heritage Foundation can be completed at that time.

Signs for the property have been ordered. They will be placed appropriately once the land has been formally purchased.

b. Big Hollow.

Wapsi Valley Archaeology will begin work on the completion of Phase III report this month. They should have it completed sometime in the spring of 2015.

Water Quality: IDNR final report on the white substance in Flint Creek from the BH Lake has been received. Very cut and dried report.

New update. IDNR Ryan Stouder has had conversation with Director Lee regarding the incident. There were apparently a number of unknown contributing factors surrounding this complaint. As of now it is believed that the watershed above BH Lake is receiving permitted discharge from the US Gypsum Plant. That runoff over the past five years that the lake has been in place may have been a contributing partner to the white substance discharged from the lake when the gate was opened. As a result the investigating officer has suggested that some mitigation efforts might be in the future for the watershed above BH Lake. He was going to do some checking with his office to see what help could be given to assist with this problem. Des Moines County Conservation is committed to being a good neighbor to the US Gypsum Plant and to partner with them, when possible, to resolve this issue together.

Director Lee will be in touch with the appropriate entities to follow thru with the requirements of the letter sent by the IDNR to determine how to resolve the immediate problem.

c. Other:

SCNC. EE Manager Kent Rector is ready to start on the office relocation at the center. Blueprints are ready to go. An update will be provided for Virginia & Harry Murray Foundation.

11. Old Business: FEMA Buyout Property Management – Lease/Public use discussion

The individual who was using a property for his firewood operation has cleaned up his mess. The property is clear.

Regarding the leasing of FEMA properties our Insurance has no problem as long as we stay within the guidelines of the FEMA restrictions.

Director Lee will research the properties once again to determine which might be leased. The Board was firm in the commitment that leasing of these individual properties not be costly or time demanding on staff. If the properties can be utilized and some profit realized then it would be worth the effort. Director Lee will report back to the board with an update.

12. New Business:

a. Shooting Range SOP review

Members present have reviewed the recommended changes by the SR Advisory Committee.

#98. A motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer, to accept the 2015 SOP as amended. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

b. Strategic Plan review

Members present have reviewed the Strategic Plan.

#99. A motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve the updated Strategic Plan. Motion approved unanimously by all members present.

c. Request for Beer/Wine, Nature Center Behne

#100. A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the request for Beer/Wine at the Nature Center on December 27th by the Behne Family. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

d. Ziglar, Term expiration

In discussion it was highly recommended, for the record, that Board Member Ziglar be re-appointed for another term on the Des Moines County Conservation Board. Director Lee will take that recommendation to the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting of December 9, 2014.

e. Flint River Trail Overlook Shelter

Director Lee has met with Ron Stigge and Leroy Bickel. They have requested permission to construct a shelter on the overlook in the Hickory Bend area of the Flint River Trail. This would be paid for and constructed by the Bike Burlington Organization.

Drawings were presented to the board for review. After discussion it was felt to be a good project and that Director Lee should be in overseeing the project.

#. A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the request to construct a shelter on the Flint River Trail Overlook. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

13. Informational Items/Correspondence:

a. Letter from Cathy Ziglar

Letter was received by the Board.

b. ISAC Conference Report, Lee.

Report reviewed and received by the Board.

c. Director Lee informed the Board of his intention to offer the position of Park Ranger to John Mercer pending his graduation from the ILEA.

14. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

#101. A motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer, 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. Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday January 07, 2015. The public is welcome.

Cathy Ziglar, Chair

Jim Garnjobst, Secretary/Treasurer