

1. **Call to Order**

Jim Steer, 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: James Steer, Jim Garnjobst, Angela Vaughan and LaVon Worley

Those Members Absent: Cathy Ziglar

Others Present: Chris Lee and Joel Behne

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

None

3. **Delegations/Public Input:**

a. None.

4. a. **Approval of Minutes for June 03, 2015:**

#46. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the minutes of the June 03, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. **Approval of Report of Activities for June 2015:**

#47. a. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the reports of activity for June 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. **Approval of Claims for June 2015:**

#48. a. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the claims for June 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. **Acceptance of Donations**

a. LaVon Worley. Materials and Thank You gift for the sign at Aldo Leopold Middle School. Estimated value of \$80.00

8. **Committee Reports:**

a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Garnjobst. A meeting was held during on Wednesday June 24, 2015. Six members were in attendance. Director Lee gave a report on the berms and the completion of that project. No other new business.

b. **Flint River Trails:** No report. The previously scheduled meeting had been cancelled and the next is scheduled for September.

c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley. No report.

d. **REAP:** Jim Steer had no report. He advised that it should be pretty quiet until the next session begins.

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

a. **Big Hollow:**

- Staff continues to maintain the parks and keep up with removal of the many trees that have come down during the recent storms.
- Work continues on the design and planning of the donors kiosk. \$16,000 of the Marvin Pohren donation to conservation has been considered as the budgeted amount for this project. Trying to stay within that budget is proving to be difficult. Design work will continue.

- A new sign has been designed and will be placed at Big Hollow. Sign shows BH and a concept of the proposed shower house. Information presented outlines the projected financing needed to complete the project. Donation needs are outlined to provide our citizens and park visitors with the understanding and belief that Des Moines County Conservation is truly dedicated to completing this project by 2017.
- The Youth Corp trail crew, provided by grant funding, is on site and assisting with the trail work. This has taken some of the load off of staff as there have been numerous washouts and downed trees to deal with.
- Wapsi Valley Archaeology has completed their draft report. The final report will be available soon with some minor changes needed. Wapsi Valley has been paid in full.

b. Starr’s Cave Nature Center Upgrades:

EE Staff has been busy with camps. Progress on the building will be on hold until the next disbursement of the Murray Grant is available.

c. Flint River and Big Hollow Trails.

Flint River Trail is seeing some progress. The Sovereign Lands Permit has been received. Wetland Development has been authorized. Work within the SCP&P may be accomplished by a DNR crew instead of a contractor in an effort to make the least disturbance within the preserve.

Funding from the State of Iowa has been approved for a geo web surface parking area at the south restroom and for resurfacing the mud road at the Hickory Bend Area. Road vacancies and neighboring property owners are still to be worked out. County Engineer Brian Carter is working on this with Director Lee.

Leopold Recreation Area has been toured and looked at for possible access and egress points that might assist in accommodating the trail at a later date.

d. Other: Parks. – None.

10. Old Business:

a.

11. New Business:

a. Big Hollow Off-grid Cabin rental rate:

In earlier discussions regarding the cabin and having a canoe with it for the users it was determined that we would have a canoe available.

It has become unrealistic to have a ranger or staff person run over to the cabin with a key and collect payment and then return to make sure the canoe is secure and the key has been returned. Many of our guests/customers have indicated that we are not charging enough for the use of this primitive cabin. The possibility of purchasing another Nucanoe to place at the cabin for the use of the individual or individuals reserving the cabin would seem to be more plausible for the utilization of staff.

Board members present agreed that it was reasonable to make a canoe available for those reserving the cabin. The new rate should start with the opening of our next season. April of 2016 the fee for Off-Grid Cabin should go to \$40.00 per night for both the cabin and canoe.

#49. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve placing a canoe with the cabin and to raise the rental rate, starting April 01, 2016 to \$40.00 per night with the two night minimum stay as it is now. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

b. Linder Property.

Maps of the Linder property had been provided in this month's board packet. The Linder property has been in discussion for several years now dating back to 2007. Des Moines County Conservation previously incurred the cost of an appraisal and survey and \$1,000 in earnest monies. Grants were applied for but none were successful. The original time frame was extended several times, however, Mr. Harold Linder has since passed away. Daughter Elaine (Linder) Hall would very much like to keep the property in the hands of a conservation organization. Elaine has been in contact with the IA Natural Heritage Foundation regarding the possibility of assisting Des Moines County Conservation with the purchase of her father's property.

The Pros and Cons of the Linder property were discussed at length. The Board requested Director Lee to work with IA Natural Heritage Foundation representative Ross Baxter and to determine an actual price per acre and overall selling/buying price. To also determine how they can assist us in achieving the desired amount through grants and other potential options.


Director Lee will work with IA Natural Heritage Foundation as requested.

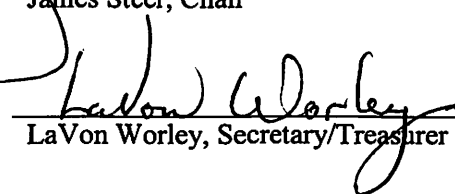
12. Informational Items/Correspondence:

- a. Chairman Steer congratulated Board Members Vaughan and Worley for their commitment of time to attend the fall IACCB conference in Cedar Rapids. Chairman Steer felt this was a great way for board members to have a better understanding of what affects counties other than Des Moines County.

13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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 August 05, 2015. The public is welcome to attend.


James Steer, Chair


LaVon Worley, Secretary/Treasurer