

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, Cathy Ziglar and LaVon Worley

Those Members Absent:

Others Present: Dave Wiemer, Eric Marshall, Alex Buhmeyer, Paul Ziglar, Kent Rector, Director Chris Lee and Office Manager Joel Behne

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

- a. Remove #11a. Linder under New Business.
- b. Move #11b. BH Donor Recognition up.
- c. Move #12a. City/County Mountain Bike Trail Project under Information Items up.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

- a. None.

4. a. Approval of Minutes for July 01, 2015:

#55. Motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the minutes of the July 01, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for July 2015:

#56. a. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the reports of activity for July 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. Approval of Claims for July 2015:

#57. a. Motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the claims for July 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a. Glenn & Nancy Burkett. Bee keeping. Extractor – 4 Bee suits, diagrams, literature
- b. Jeff Jennison – Riley Paint Co. Storage of cut lumber and logs, for the Leopold Heritage Group, for calendar year 2015. Valued at \$14,400.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Garnjobst. No report
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Cathy Ziglar. The next meeting will be in September, therefore, the next report will be at the October Board Meeting.
- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley. Reported that Mark Hirsch author of ‘That Tree’ will be presenting at the Art Center on Sunday August 9th from 1 to 4 pm. Mark will also be at the Observatory on August 8th. He will have his books available. The Board is invited.

The Observatory has been painted with the assistance of a grant. Some minor touch-ups needed but the building and grounds are looking great.

- d. **REAP:** Jim Steer had no report.

9. Project Updates: By Director Lee

- a. **Big Hollow:** Water testing for the lake has been coming back fine during the past couple of weeks. Swimming restriction has been removed.
- b. **Starr's Cave Nature Center Upgrades:** Painting will be ongoing during the next week. The second installment of the Murray Foundation Grant has been received. Progress on the Nature Center will begin once again.

Director Lee will be meeting with Nature Center Staff soon to conduct a planning and brainstorming process for upcoming programs and needs.

c. **Flint River and Big Hollow Trails.**

Approval for the funding of the parking lot at the south restroom has been received as well as for a parking area at Big Hollow.

Engineering contract has been awarded for the Phase that goes through Starr's Cave Park & Preserve. IDOT will be contacted regarding the possibility of allowing the IDNR's trail crews to do the work rather than just taking the low bid. This will be requested so that the disturbance to the Park & Preserve is minimal.

d. **Other: Parks.**

Signage has been purchased and received. FEMA buyout areas will all be marked and numbered. Volunteers are requested to assist in the placement of more than 70 signs for these areas.

Regulation signs for Hunt Woods, Big Hollow and the Gahn Area have been received and installed.

10. **Old Business:** None.

a.

11. **New Business:**

a. **Linder Property** – Removed from agenda under #2 a. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda.

b. **Annual Report** – Director Lee presented the FY 2014-2015 Annual Report, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 Des Moines County Conservation.

b. **BH donor Recognition**

A previously held work session with both the Des Moines County Conservation Board and the Partners for Conservation Foundation Board to review this site at Big Hollow as well as to define the originally promised recognition for our many committed donors.

It was determined that the Partners Board wished to have a wall as originally promised to donors during fundraising. However, they did agree that the final decision lies with the Conservation Board.

Eric Marshall and Paul Ziglar were both in attendance to give their professional thoughts to a future plan for the layout and/or wall and kiosk. There was much discussion. Director Lee will put together a listing of all donors needing to be recognized as well as to present a potential plan for a work session to be announced. This item will be placed back on the agenda for September.

12. Informational Items/Correspondence:

a. City/County Mountain Bike Trail Project.

Alex Buhmeyer, DMCC Operations Supervisor and bike enthusiast was present to outline a proposal to the Board regarding a City/County Mountain Bike Trail. This would potentially be on both City of Burlington and Des Moines County Property. No funding from either entity is anticipated. The area is located off of Golf Course Road and combines both the Leopold Recreation Area and property that is owned by the City across the road from Flint Hills Golf Course.

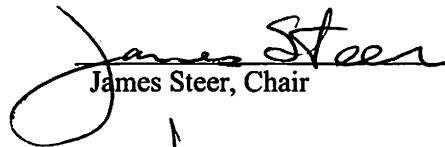
Alex has recently met with City Planner Eric Tysland and Director Lee as well as some of the members from local bike clubs. All seem very interested and excited about the prospect. The original trail would be less aggressive than a later trail in the same area. This would be in the interest of allowing many more less athletic individuals to utilize the trail.

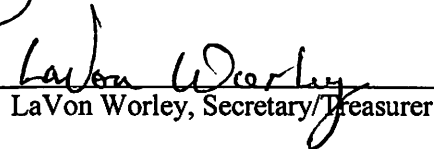
Alex is working on building a coalition of 40 to 50 volunteers to initiate the trail and bridges as needed. This area does have some very tough terrain. Later funding would be based on grants that might be applied for. Planning will continue as the Board was amiable to the project with the understanding that this would not put additional responsibilities and workload on an already understaffed organization.

Alex thanked the board for the interest and advised that he would return with more information as the project proceeds.

13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:55 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 September 02, 2015. The public is welcome to attend.


James Steer, Chair


LaVon Worley, Secretary/Treasurer