

**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, LaVon Worley, Cathy Ziglar and Angela Vaughan

**Those Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Supervisor Beck, Kent Rector, Frances Owen, Chris Lee and Office Manager Joel Behne

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

- a. LaVon Worley requested that an item C be added to #12: Informational Items/Correspondence. Leopold Prescribed Burn.

**3. Delegations/Public Input:**

- a. None.

**4. a. Approval of Minutes for October 07, 2015:**

#70. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the minutes of the October 07, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

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

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

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

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

**7. Acceptance of Donations**

- a. Kings Daughters Group. \$25.00 for SCNC Renovation.

**8. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Shooting Range:** No report. Next meeting will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at which time the SOP will be reviewed.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Cathy Ziglar. No report.
- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley brought two very colorful books that are being sold by the members of the Observatory for the board to review. He felt it might be something we, Conservation, may wish to promote. He also reported:

The following maintenance has been completed:

- Ealing telescope changed to be user friendly for the operators.
- Roll-off: opening to be more user friendly for the operators.

Painting of the Witte Complex.

- Included power washing the buildings.
- Witte Building & Prugh-Carver (roll-over).
- All steel doors and trim around the dome.

Keep Iowa Beautiful grant paid for 8 gallons of paint.

- Gutters over the meeting room fans to prevent moisture from the building. Updated the decking around Stone-Kelly .
  - Continue updating the decks and sidewalk plus lighting for the meeting room.
  - November 20th will be the last public viewing. They will continue to be open in December & January if the weather is warm enough for the telescopes. Astronomy meetings will be held in Burlington in December, February and perhaps March.
- d. **REAP:** Director Lee reported that our Local REAP Assembly was held on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at the Starr's Cave Nature Center Leopold Loft.

Charles Nichols was elected as a delegate for the REAP Congress to be held in Des Moines in January. LaVon Worley was elected as an alternate.

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

a. **Starr's Cave Nature Center Upgrades:**

Renovation continues. Kevin Moore scheduled to be back during the upcoming week. Finishing touches are anticipated to be completed in approximately two weeks. IT department will then be requested to move computers and required lines into the new area. This move will, hopefully, be prior to Thanksgiving Holiday.

Open house to be in conjunction with the January 15<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Dinner. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. that Friday evening with the open house viewing prior to the dinner.

REAP CEP Grant in the amount of approximately \$50,000 for this fall application period is being applied for. The requested grant is proposed to go toward much needed software and nature center displays. If not received grant application this upcoming spring will be resubmitted. Changes will be made as needed. This new software will be utilized to provide on-line registration of all types as well as the medical liability forms for our summer camps. This information will be able to be kept in a safe and secure environment.

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

- Director Lee recently met with DOT's new rep. He is to be the point-of-contact for design concepts. He had come down for the Urban Youth Corp evaluation and introduced himself at that time.
- Director Lee has completed the Dunn proposal.

c. **Big Hollow**

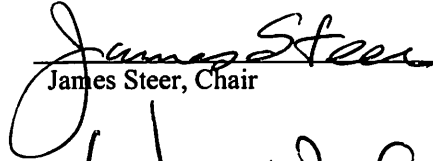
- Natural Resource Manager Yost and the Conservation Corp Group have finished. Forestry Crew completed approximately 17 ½ acres. A request for a 3<sup>rd</sup> grant has been made.
- Big Hollow Dam maintenance has been maintained per DNR requirements for this year.
- DOT will be working on stream mitigation. Stream improvements to be implemented in an effort to resolve and improve that which is entering Big Hollow Lake from upstream. This should assist in solving the water quality of that which is entering from the Gypsum Plant upstream.
- Director Lee and staff recently visited Scott County Conservation to review their parks and ongoing operation of those parks. They were given much quality insight which should ultimately assist with the operation of Big Hollow.
- Draft of the proposed fundraising process provided to the board.

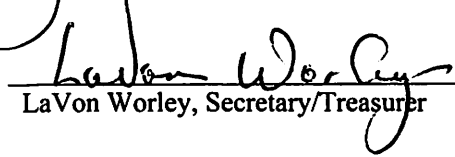
- d. **North Gorge Trail**  
This project has received a lot of interest. Many volunteers. Approximately ½ mile of trail has been cleared. The current plan is to open the trail yet this year.
  - e. **Leopold Recreation Area**  
Hunters have been experiencing problems with 4 wheelers interfering with their selected hunting locations. Ranger Mercer has been on site as much as possible and the complaints have calmed as of this reporting.
10. **Old Business: Donor Wall.**  
The board continues to review the Donor Wall process. Two new companies have submitted their product samples.
- 1. Polar Engraving
  - 2. Gift Brick.
- Prices appear to be more affordable than original indications. Board members have many questions. Jim Garnjobst will go back to his contact at Polar Engraving and try to determine the answer to those questions. A special meeting will be held soon to complete this process.
11. **New Business:**
- a. **Presentation of Department Strategic Plans:**  
Environmental Education Manager Kent Rector presented the board with the new EE Strategic Plan. Kent explained the process that was utilized to bring this new plan to fruition. This is the first new 5 year EE plan since 1998 and as such long overdue. Kent, EE Naturalist Frances Owen, and Director indicated that they have set the bar very high for the upcoming five years. It is important that some additional staffing be included to achieve these objectives. That staffing to be determined by volunteer, intern, part-time or eventually full time staff.  
  
The board indicated that they were extremely pleased and impressed with this new plan. The board thanked staff for their hard work and dedication.
  - a. **Linder Property:**  
Director Lee updated the board on the Linder property. He indicated that the Linder family is not in a hurry to have this property purchased. They are currently working with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to get this land protected during the next couple of years. DMCCB cannot accomplish the purchase of this property at this time. DMCCB will be more than willing to assist if the State IDNR would purchase the property we would be willing to work with them on a management plan similar to the Starr's Cave Park & Preserve.
12. **Informational Items/Correspondence:**
- a. Board Member Angela Vaughan's current term expires at the end of this year. Board Member Vaughan has submitted a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing an interest in continuing as a Conservation Board Member for her own term. Member Vaughan is currently completing the term of prior member Stacey Rector. Chairman Steer read the letter into the record and the remainder of the board thanked Angela for her service. The letter will be forwarded to the Supervisors for their formal action on another appointment.
  - b. CCPOA Conference Reports, Rogge and Mercer.
  - c. Aldo Leopold School Outdoor Classroom Prairie Burn. LaVon Worley advised the board members that the prescribed burn of that prairie will be at 11:30 a.m. on October 10<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to attend.

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 December 02, 2015. The public are welcome.

  
James Steer, Chair

  
LaVon Worley, Secretary/Treasurer