

**1. Call to Order**

Cathy Ziglar, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation Board to order at 5:31 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:** Lyle Triska, Katherine Brakeville, Supervisor Beck, Chris Lee and Office Manager Behne

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

Informational Items

c. Bench dedication. FRT - LaVon Worley

**3. Delegations/Public Input:**

a. None

**4. a. Approval of Minutes for September 03, 2014:**

**#79.** Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the minutes of the September 03, 2014 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

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

**#80** a. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Angela Vaughan to approve the reports of activity for September 2014. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

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

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

**8. Acceptance of Donations**

- a. Jeff Jennison, Riley Paint Building. Storage of cut lumber and logs. Leopold Heritage Group. Value: \$3,600.00
- b. James E. Steer. \$50.00 for Big Hollow.
- c. MidwestOneBank. \$250.00 for Wildlife Rehab Program.

**9. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Steer – No report.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Jim Garnjobst reported that a meeting was held on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Director Lee and others attended. Money is available from this project in the amount of \$125,000 that was left over. Director Lee would like to see those monies utilized for upgrading some of the more severe washout areas. A Shelter on the lookout was discussed. A shelter would be completed with private donations and volunteer labor. Phase II & III are officially completed. DOT views the next portion of this trail project as a new process and everything will need to start over including the selection of an Engineer for the project.
- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley – No report.
- d. **REAP:** Cathy Ziglar. – No report. Director Lee reported that the cutoff for the Annual REAP 0.22 reports is Oct 01. Anticipates REAP dollars to arrive mid to late November.

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

- a.. Leopold Recreation Area. The purchase process is progressing. DOT has accepted the Appraisal. Kathleen Moench is working on having this accepted by DNR for LWCF grant. Has contacted National Park Service who have the last say. Once DOT Officially, accepts the appraisal with written documentation the project can be authorized and the property can be purchased. County ready to spend necessary dollars so that reimbursement can be processed. Partners funding will be needed as well. Looking toward purchase completion by years end.
- b. Big Hollow. Staff is currently transitioning from summer seasonal to fall and winter projects. The Conservation Crew will be here soon to start work on a Forestry Project at BH. The Cabin is rented for all weekends thru November 1<sup>st</sup>. Cabin has had a successful first year.  
  
Drowning at the Lake is still under investigation. Reports not back at this time.
- c. DNR Diversity Grant. The Conservation forestry crew will be at BH during the week of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Once that work is done Conservation can apply for reimbursement. Pictures will be available of the before and after of this project.
- e. Other. FEMA – IDNR District Forester, Lisa Louck, has been busy assisting with the BH forestry project. Has not had an opportunity to review FEMA Buyout properties. Will be accomplished soon after that project has been completed.

The Encroachment problem will be cleaned up. The individual has been contacted and has been given to the end of October. He works at the fertilizer plant and will get to it as soon as it isn't overly wet in that area.

**11. Old Business: None**

**12. New Business:**

**a. BMAC Agreement**

Lyle Triska appeared on behalf of the BMAC to sign the new agreement. Board approved the current agreement as it has not changed from the previous year. The Board thanked Lyle for his and their memberships work at the airfield.

**#82.** A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the BMAC Agreement for the upcoming year. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

**b. Personnel Action: Operations Supervisor**

Director Lee updated the Board on the position of Operations Supervisor. After a lengthy application process a new Operations Supervisor has been selected.

Alex Buhmeyer of Flagstaff, AZ, originally from the Burlington area, has been offered and he has accepted the position and will be relocating to Burlington and Des Moines County. He is currently employed as a City Forester in Flagstaff. His start date will be November 03, 2014.

**#83.** A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve filling the position of Operations Supervisor with the hiring of Alex Buhmeyer as recommended by Director Lee. Motion approved unanimously by all members present.

**c. Conservation Reserve Projects.**

At this time there is approximately \$79,000 in the Conservation Reserve Fund. These are monies that have been collected from the Big Hollow projects as allowed by resolution of the Des Moines County Supervisors.

There are three (3) major projects needing to be completed from the Conservation Reserve Fund. Complete the Big Hollow Lake Project Archaeology as required by the MOA. \$40,000. After the completion of probation to send John Mercer to the ILEA. \$10,000. Raise the 100 yard and 300 meter range berms to their proper heights as outlined in the SR SOP. Previous bids estimated at \$35,000 to 45,000 for that project. Trucking fill from Mediapolis quarry expansion estimated at \$65,000.

After discussing each project it was determined.

- Archaeology project should be a priority to complete as per the requirements outlined in the current MOA.
- Des Moines County Conservation needs to send an individual to the ILEA.
- Berms need to be raised and this can be re-bid this fall for a next year's project.

**#84.** A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve utilizing Conservation Reserve Funds to complete these three projects. Motion approved unanimously by all members present.

**c. PF Request for Gahn Rec Area**

The Aldo Leopold Chapter of Pheasants Forever in Burlington has requested use of the Kevin J. Gahn Memorial Recreation Area to hold a shotgun patterning event on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion regarding the use lead vs. steel shot was held. The pro and con of the type of ammunition was at the center of the discussion. Due to the particular type of requested event it was believed that both types needed to be utilized in order to best pattern individual shotguns. Patterning for both upland game and waterfowl are to be included in this event.

**#85.** A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the requested use of the Kevin J. Gahn Memorial Recreation Area by the local PF. Aye votes by Jim Steer and Jim Garnjobst. Nay votes by Angela Vaughan and LaVon Worley. Chairwoman Cathy Ziglar voted Aye. Motion passed.

**13. Informational Items/Correspondence:**

**a. Barn Painting Party**

The Star's Cave Nature Center (Barn) is on course to be painted on October 9, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>. Primer has been donated. Lunches have been donated for the volunteers. Bring your scrapers and paint brushes.

**b. Date & Time November meeting.**

Due to conflicts with Director Lee's Des Moines Conference schedule the next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Admin Office.

**c. Bench Dedication FRT – LaVon Worley**

LaVon indicated that the dedication of the bench for Dr. Foss on the Overlook off of the Flint River Trail at Hickory Bend was well attended. The bench is of a recycled material and will fit into the location well. LaVon thanked all those who attended as well as for their help with this project.

**14. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.**

**#86.** A motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, 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 Thursday November 06, 2014. The public is welcome.

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Cathy Ziglar, Chair

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Jim Garnjobst, Secretary/Treasurer