

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, Angela Vaughan and Cathy Ziglar

Those Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jim Hilkin, Chris Lee and Office Manager Behne

2. a. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

Under 'New Business' 11a move up Witte Observatory Agreement

a. Witte Observatory Agreement

Jim Hilkin President of the SEIAC was present to represent the members of the Witte Observatory.

The current agreement has been reviewed by both Conservation Board Members and the Southeast Iowa Astronomy Club members. No changes were indicated to be necessary.

#11. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve the current Witte Observatory Agreement with SEIAC as written for 2015. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

a. None

4. a. Approval of Minutes for January 06, 2015:

#12. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the minutes of the January 06, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for January 2015:

#13 a. Motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by Cathy Ziglar to approve the reports of activity for January 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. Approval of Claims for January 2015:

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

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a.** Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa/Western IL. \$20.00 for Starr's Cave Nature Center
- b.** James F. Barr. Annual donation for Big Hollow. \$105.00.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Shooting Range: Jim Garnjobst. A meeting for March has been scheduled.

b. Flint River Trails: Cathy Ziglar. No report

c. Observatory: Cooperative Agreement signed and approved under New Business 11a. This agreement will be signed by the Partners For Conservation Chairman at their meeting which is scheduled for Friday, February 06, 2015.

d. REAP:

Director Lee reported that the IWILL – Lobby Day in Des Moines was well attended. Natural Resource Manager Jeremy Yost and REAP member Al Ourth attended with Director Lee. While in Des Moines they were able to meet face-to-face with Representative Dennis Cohoon of Burlington. Dennis indicated that this, and any, tax increase will be a hard sell. However, there is a lot of public support and the support continues to grow.

9. Project Updates: By Director Lee

a. Leopold Recreation Area.

The Leopold Property has been paid for, recorded and Des Moines County is now the owner. Director Lee has sent the request for the grant money and reimbursement from LAWCON.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was extremely happy to receive the check and for the title and property to be turned over to Des Moines County.

Signs are going up on the Leopold Property.

This Friday, February 06, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. the Board of Supervisors and others will be going on a tour of the property with Director Lee. All board members are invited.

b. Big Hollow:

The ice fishing derby/clinic scheduled for this Saturday, February 7th, 2015 has been cancelled. The ice was tested today and found to be not suitable for the safety of our customers and their children. The event will be rescheduled for February of 2016.

c. Starr's Cave Nature Center Upgrades:

The office upgrade to the Nature Center's basement area is moving along at a fast pace. The floor is in. Blue board insulation has been placed. The sills have been installed for all of the windows and the windows just arrived. They will be installed soon. The electrical has been updated and the electrician is just waiting for the walls to be erected so the lines can be run. Progress can be seen on a daily basis. Kevin Moore has been finding many ways to save on the improvements in order to keep the project under budget.

d. Other:

The staff is busy completing winter projects, vehicle and equipment maintenance, splitting firewood for the summer camping season and other general maintenance that gets pushed to the side during our busy seasons.

10. Old Business:

a. Bylaws:

The changes requested by the board at the January 06, 2015 board meeting have been made.

#15. a. Motion by Angela Vaughan, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the document with the requested changes. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

b. FEMA Buyout Properties:

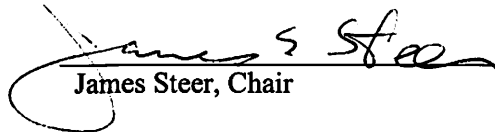
After discussion of the FEMA Buyout properties proposal a motion was made to reflect the following. Recommendation #'s 1, 2, 3, 4 be approved and acted upon. #5 is set aside for future review.

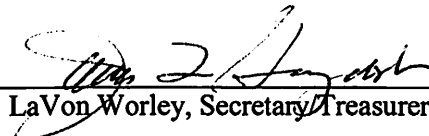
1. Request the county/levee district waive the taxes on these parcels.
2. Update & replace signage on all parcels. Install signs that clearly state the parcels are owned by Des Moines County Conservation; what, if any, special regulations apply to them, and contact numbers/email for more information or to report unauthorized access.
3. Begin implementing the Forest Stewardship Plan. Focus first on Parcel #56 with the goal of managing for a future harvest. Conduct similar TSI work on some of the other larger parcels as time and resources allow. Take an active approach to invasive species control and eradication.
4. Open Parcel #56 (the portion north of Flint Creek) to public hunting by archery methods only.
5. Consider granting private access permits upon request on a case-by-case basis. Permits should be granted only when doing so would constitute a clear net benefit to the department.

#16. a. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Angela Vaughan, to approve the recommendations as outlined above. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

11. **New Business:**
- a. **Witte Observatory Agreement**
See Motion Listed under Additions and Deletions.
 - b. **Shooting Range Project Contractor Selection:**
Bids received for the RFP that was sent to area contractors were provided for the board's review.
Edle Earthmoving, Inc. Mediapolis, Iowa \$25,930.00
Fye Excavating, Inc. Sperry, Iowa \$41,250.00
Four Seasons Excavation and Landscaping, Inc. West Burlington, Iowa \$41,500.00
Abolt, Inc. Fort Madison, Iowa \$131,358.00
All bids received were in compliance with the RFP's requested work project.
The board determined that they should accept the low bid by Edle Earthmoving, Inc. of Mediapolis, Iowa.
- #17. A motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve and accept the low bid by Edle Earthmoving, Inc. Motion approved unanimously by all members present.
12. **Informational Items/Correspondence:**
- a. **2015 Suspense Calendar**
A suspense calendar for 2015 has been compiled. This calendar of events for the year was provided to the board.
- The board indicated collectively that this was the document that they had been searching for in past discussions. They thanked Director Lee and Office Manager Behne for their work on this calendar.
13. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6.49 p.m.**
- #18. A motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, 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 March 04, 2015. The public is welcome.


James Steer, Chair


LaVon Worley, Secretary/Treasurer

Signed by Jim Garnjobst, in
LaVon Worley's absence.