

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, Cathy Ziglar and LaVon Worley

Those Members Absent: Angela Vaughan

Others Present: Steve Brecount, Zack Cornick, Randy Rippenkroeger, Chris Lee and Joel Behne

2. a. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

Moved #10 Old Business, Cooperative Agreement: Flint River Bow Club up.

Present at the meeting representing the Flint River Bow Club were Steve Brecount, Zack Cornick and Randy Rippenkroeger. All had reviewed the agreement as updated for this meeting. No one had any objections to the way in which it was worded for this period.

The members present asked if it were possible to expand the area a bit during their shoots so that they would have better target positioning. Director Lee will meet with the members in the future to see what can be done to accommodate their request.

The Board members thanked them for their participation with the Youth Jamboree. The members indicated that they hoped to include more women and youth in their shoots during the next couple of years. They indicated they are actively involved with updating the bridges on site as well as making their targets better.

#38. a. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the Cooperative Agreement with the Flint River Bow Club as written and updated. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

a. None.

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

#39. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the minutes of the May 06, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for May 2015:

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

6. Approval of Claims for May 2015:

#41. a. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the claims for May 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations

a. Jeff Royer & Pepsi Co. \$50.00 for SCNC.

b. Jenny Yocum. 2 cans of formula. Estimated value at \$40.00

c. Jim Steer. 4 Bluebird boxes, posts, pvc and hose clamps. Valued at \$130.00. Bluebird nesting program at Leopold Recreation Area. Bluebird nesting program at Leopold Recreation Area.

d. Jim Garnjobst. 5 Bluebird boxes, posts, pvc and hose clamps. Valued at \$150.00. Bluebird nesting program at Leopold Recreation Area.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Garnjobst. No report as they have not had a meeting.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Cathy Ziglar. No report.
- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley had the opportunity to meet with Judy and Jim Hilkin last Friday evening. LaVon advised that the night was overcast, however, some stars were visible and the moon was quite beautiful. A copy of June activities was emailed to board members. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19th.
- d. **REAP:** Jim Steer had no report. Director Lee indicated that there has not been much movement regarding IWILL. Conversations are still about what needs to be carried over into the next session. Director Lee has met with local Government Affairs and they appear to be open to this initiative.

9. Project Updates: By Director Lee

a. Big Hollow:

- The Youth Jamboree was once again a great success. Over 500 kids participated with over 1,000 in total attendance. Rick and Renee Baker were nominated for the Mayor's Volunteer Award and won this year. This was a well-attended event and recognized many of the community's volunteers.
- The Shooting Range Berms have been completed. The Storm water permit can be closed out.
- Wapsi Valley has not yet completed their work. They are now projecting a few more weeks to complete the project. Director has made them aware completion is extremely important and that the bill be in hand by June 19th. This project was specifically budgeted for with an amendment and needs to be paid this Fiscal Year.
- Jeremy has completed a tree and shrub replanting at a wetland mitigation site at BH and his report has been submitted to the Corps.
- Water Quality and Fisheries were here to sample the lake. No word on results as of this report.
- Memorial Day camping weekend was not as busy as the past year. Numerous fishermen and boats on the lake as the fish are starting to bite at Big Hollow Lake.
- Grants that were applied for. Murray already funding SCNC project so not able to double up to one grantee. Winegard and Witte not heard from to date.

b. Starr's Cave Nature Center Upgrades:

Currently awaiting the next installment of the Murray Grant funding. Kevin Moore is working on some of the countertop installation.

c. Flint River and Big Hollow Trails.

Not much is happening at the present time. Conference call scheduled for June 17th for follow-up. French-Reneker-Associates, Inc. are the engineers of record on this portion of the project.

d. Other: Parks. – Starr’s Cave House.

- The roof repair on the house has been completed. The chimney needs work. That will be budgeted as appropriate.
- Nature Center programs are going well. On-line evaluations being received have all returned as excellent.

10. Old Business:

a. Cooperative Agreement: Flint River Bow Club.

This item was moved up and completed in 2a. See above.

11. New Business:

a. Closure of certain Welter Recreation Area Campsites

Director Lee briefed the board on the past revenue on the Cottonwood Loop and Little Welter. Amounts collected do not appear to be beneficial to keeping the camping in these areas open. Director Lee would like to keep it for day use only. Let those few current sites go back to native grasses. This area is used primarily for the boat ramp and this way it could be still utilized. If the need for those sites grows they could be reopened with some other potential additional sites on a higher ground in the same area.

#42. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve closing those two areas to camping and maintaining ‘Day use’ for Cottonwood Loop. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

b. Range Reservation Request. 25 Yard range June 14th for DMCSO.

This requested date is a Sunday. This will be a session hosting training for a group of individuals that have concealed carry permits. They wish to know how to better handle their weapons. Both Chief Deputy White and Lieutenant Williams, certified shooting range instructors, will be on-site for the training.

#43. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the range reservation for the 25 yard range on Sunday June 14th for the requested training. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

c. SCNC beer/wine permit – Behne/Watson

#44. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the request for beer and wine at the Nature Center on June 6th for the family gathering. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

d. 2015-16 Employee Handbook

All board members had previously received a copy of the handbook and have reviewed it.

#45. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the 2015/16 Employee Handbook as written. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

12. **Informational Items/Correspondence:**

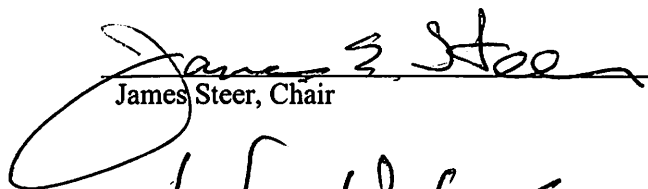
- a. Director Lee will return to a full work schedule during the upcoming week. Director Lee advised that it has been great to have had the time with his wife and new baby daughter.
- b. Ross Baxter, INHF, has been in contact regarding the possibility of purchasing the Linder property. This property has previously been on our list of possibilities. However, now that Harold Linder, the property owner and noted conservationist has passed away his daughter, Elaine, is searching for a buyer. She wishes to keep the property in a conservation type ownership. Ross believes it can be purchased for a very reasonable price. The Board requested that Director Lee look into a potential acquisition and return to the board with his findings.

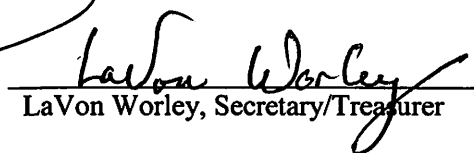
LaVon Worley thanked Director Lee for providing the buyout area off of Tama for their Leopold logs to be stored. An area of this site has been rocked in order to store the materials. The plan is for these logs to be used in the future and for their preservation.

Director Lee has spoken with DMC Auditor Carol Copeland regarding this year's upcoming audit. He requested that those completing the audit to please contact him and physically come out to the Administration Office so that they might personally view the Conservation Department's operations first hand. He would like any recommendations directly on any possible deficiencies they might discover while conducting this year's audit.

13. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:38 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 July 08, 2015. The public is welcome to attend.


James Steer, Chair


LaVon Worley, Secretary/Treasurer