

Polk County Conservation Board  
Polk County Admin. Bldg.  
111 Court Avenue, Room 120  
Des Moines, IA

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

The Polk County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **#1 – Roll Call**

Members Present: Levis, Kurovski, Johnson, Cataldo, Smith

### **#1b – Action on the Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)**

**MOTION:** Moved by Kurovski to approve the June 11, 2014 meeting minutes as written.

VOTE YEA: Levis, Kurovski, Johnson, Cataldo, Smith

### **#2 – Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** Moved by Smith to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a) June 2014 bill list;
- b) 28E Agreement with the Iowa Department of Corrections and authorize the Director to sign the Agreement;
- c) authorizing staff to publish notice of a public hearing to be held at the PCCB's August 2014 meeting to consider the plans, specs, and estimated costs for the Jester Park Conservation Center project;
- d) authorizing the Director to notify the successful bidder for the harvest of standing prairie hay from Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt that they may proceed upon receipt of insurance documentation and that the Board further directs staff to bring the results of the bidding to the PCCB's August 2014 meeting for official Board action.

VOTE YEA: Johnson, Smith, Cataldo, Kurovski, Levis

#3 – Jester Park Equestrian Center – Executive Summary

Dr. Liz Weinstein of Elizabeth Weinstein and Consultants was hired by PCCB to look into situation at the Jester Park Equestrian Center. A survey was conducted as part of the project. Dr. Weinstein distributed the Executive Summary put together from the survey findings and reviewed the information with the Board.

Dr. Weinstein explained the next step was to hold meetings with employees and stakeholders.

Dr. Weinstein indicated that a report would be put together following the additional scheduled meetings. The Board asked Dr. Weinstein to return to a future Board meeting to give her report following the meetings.

**MOTION:** Moved by Johnson that the PCCB accept the Executive Summary developed from results of a survey completed on the Jester Park Equestrian Center.

VOTE YEA: Johnson, Cataldo, Levis, Smith, Kurovski

Public Comments

Jeri Scott, 1431 Thompson, Des Moines and volunteer at JPEC, appeared before the Board to ask how many volunteers were solicited. Dr. Weinstein indicated 39 volunteers received the survey.

#4 – Chichaqua Valley Trail Connector

Wayne Johnson introduced Rich Voelker with Snyder & Associates, firm overseeing the project.

**MOTION:** Moved by Kurovski to accept the bid of \$1,935,769.26 from Howrey Construction to construct the Chichaqua Valley Trail Connector and a 5% contingency of \$96,788.46 for a project total not to exceed the amount of \$2,032,557.72; authorize the Chair to sign associated documents; and encourage Director to look for cost saving measures with the contractor as well as Construction Administration with the Engineering Consultant and PC Engineering. Funding for this project is as follows: State Rec Trail Funds, \$47,548, Fed. STP Funds, \$750,000, balance out of PCWLL Funds, \$1,235,009.72.

VOTE YEA: Smith, Kurovski, Cataldo, Levis, Johnson

#5 – Vision Iowa Funding Support Letter

**MOTION:** Moved by Smith to ratify the previous polling of the Board on May 14, 2014 approving the PCCB Chair to sign the letter pledging to cover the \$750,000 funding shortfall should future fundraising for the Jester Park Conservation Center fall short.

VOTE YEA: Kurovski, Smith, Levis, Johnson, Cataldo

#6 – Jester Park Conservation Center Project and Fundraising Update

Director Parker indicated that Vision Iowa gave tentative approval on the grant for the Conservation Center. The grant request amount was \$1.17 million. Vision Iowa awarded \$970,000. Parker stated that the award of funds was contingent upon completed fundraising within 90 days.

Information only.

#7 – Jester Park Conservation Center, Timeline and Invitation to Bid

**MOTION:** Moved by Levis to approve the proposed timeline for the Jester Park Conservation Center project; authorize staff to submit an Invitation to Bid to the Des Moines Register for publication; and authorize staff to proceed with all Conservation Center planning.

VOTE YEA: Johnson, Cataldo, Smith, Levis, Kurovski

#8 – Jester Park Conservation Center, Water and Electric Utility Service

**MOTION:** Moved by Smith to direct staff to work with Xenia Rural Water and Mid-American Energy to have water and electric utilities brought to the Jester Conservation Center building site for a total estimated cost of \$95,000. Funding for this project will come from PCWLL funds.

VOTE YEA: Levis, Johnson, Kurovski, Cataldo, Smith

#9 – Employees, Recent Hires

Information only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeri Scott, 1431 Thompson Ave., Des Moines, appeared before the Board to ask questions about equestrian center budget and to comment on the cabin construction cost overrun and the Conservation Center project. She also thanked the Board for bringing in Dr. Weinstein to review the equestrian center.

#10 – Closed Session, Land Acquisition

**MOTION:** Moved by Smith, Seconded by Kurovski that the Board move into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate because premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the PCCB would have to pay for the real estate.

VOTE YEA: Cataldo, Johnson, Kurovski, Levis, Smith

**MOTION:** Moved by Smith that the Board authorize staff to proceed with the offer as discussed in closed session and authorize staff to complete acquisition

VOTE YEA: Smith, Kurovski, Cataldo, Levis, Johnson

Discussion & Remarks

\*Board indicated they would like to have a future meeting at the equestrian center.  
\*Parker reminded Board to register for the IACCB Conference in September if interested in attending.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Prepared by: Cindy Lentz

Approved: 09/10/14