

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Polk County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

#1a – Roll Call

Members Present: Johnson, Cataldo, Northway, Levis,
Members Absent: Smith (arrived at 5:36 p.m.)

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

MOTION: Moved by Cataldo to approve the February 11, 2015 meeting minutes as written.

VOTE YEA: Levis, Cataldo, Johnson, Northway

#2 – Public Comments

No comments.

#3 – Employee Introduction

Travis Maak, recently hired to fill Natural Resources Technician position, was introduced to the Board.

Director Leopold also introduced Mike McGhee, project manager for Easter Lake Restoration project.

Mike Smith arrived at 5:36 p.m.

#4 – Consent Agenda Items

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

- a) PCCB February 2015 bill list;
- b) directing staff to advertise for a public hearing to be held at the April PCCB Board meeting on the transfer of trail right-of-way property to the City of Ankeny located from Hwy. 69 through Oralabor Road to the south end of the Ankeny Corporate limits;

- c) reimbursement from Green Golf Partners in the amount of \$15,453.28 rather than the \$31,500.38 as originally approved in June 2014 towards the cost of the two Gunnison unisex vault toilets on the Jester Park Golf Course;
- d) purchase of a 2016 Ford Fusion Hybrid car from Charles Gabus Ford for a price not to exceed \$25,368.64 with monies coming from Enterprise Funds;
- e) restating their support for the Easter Lake Sediment Basin project and confirm the \$152,000 PCWLL matching monies is pledged toward this project and, if necessary, toward subsequent grant applications, regardless of the grantor;
- f) position modifications of converting the four part-time positions as identified to full-time in order to better meet operational demands, effective July 1, 2015, and directs the Accountant to take the necessary steps to implement this action;
- g) new culvert to be a 48" diameter pipe in lieu of the two 24" pipes that currently exists; and approves paying the difference in cost of \$11,237.56 out of PCWLL monies.

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

#5 – Environmental Education Annual Report

Patrice Petersen-Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator, briefly reviewed the 2013-2014 Environmental Education Annual Report.

#6 – Jester Park Conservation Center / Easter Lake Lodge Discussion

Board discussion occurred on Conservation Center being at Jester Park versus Easter Lake Park. Board consensus was to move forward with Conservation Center at Jester Park.

Chair Johnson indicated she did not want the facility at Easter Lake Park to just be for parties, weddings, etc. She would like this project to provide an opportunity to utilize education and programming as well at the Park.

#7 – Bond Projects Update

Director Leopold distributed graphs and proposed spending budget document.

Board discussion occurred on the documents. Leopold explained that the material was informational in nature and could be moved around.

#8 – Naming Practices

Leopold explained no policy was in place for “naming” parks, water bodies, trails, etc.

Following discussion the Board asked Leopold to do research on naming practices by other agencies, such as other CCBs and bring the information back to the Board.

#9 – Great Western Trail Extension to Bill Riley Trail

MOTION: Moved by Levis to approve Option #2 (an 8' wide granular trail with 340' of 10' wide concrete paving on the steep eastern end where the slope rises to meet the existing trail) for extending the Great Western Trail at a cost not to exceed \$193,000; authorizes the Chair to enter into a contract with Snyder and Associates for design, bidding, and construction services for the Great Western Trail extension at a cost not to exceed \$31,400; and further directs staff to advertise for a public hearing to be held at the Board's April 2015 meeting on the plans and specifications, cost estimate, etc. for this project with potential award of contract at the Board's May 2015 meeting.

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

#10 – Land Acquisition

MOTION: Moved by Smith to authorize the Chair to sign the Offer to Buy the Pries property located near Yellow Banks Park and directs staff to proceed with acquisition of the property at 4290 SE 76th Street, Runnells, Iowa, in the amount of \$315,000 which will be paid for with PCWLL funds.

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

#11 – Employees, Recent Hires

Information only.

#12 – Closed Session, Land Acquisition

MOTION: Moved by Smith that the Board go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(j) for the purpose of discussing the purchase of particular real estate where premature discussion could reasonably increase the price of the property.

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

Board returned to open session. As a result of the closed session discussion, there was no further action taken.

Financial Reports

Director's Remarks

Leopold remarked on the following:

- Touring PCC areas with Board Member Northway, invited Board Members to join
- Staff reports – Board finds them useful
- TAP Funding – received for Easter Lake Trail, Phase III
- Board Member participation in such things as IACCB Fall Conference, workshops, etc.
- Meeting with Bond Council

Board Chair and Member's Remarks

Chair remarked on the following.

- Leopold would be on vacation next week, Lown covering in his absence
- Volunteer banquet
- Congratulated Lown on his Wildlife Society award.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Prepared by: Cindy Lentz

Approved: