

1. Call to Order

Cathy Ziglar, 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: Cathy Ziglar, James Steer, Jim Garnjobst and LaVon Worley

Those Members Absent: Angela Vaughan

Others Present: Mr. Charles Thompson, Director Lee and Office Manager Behne

2. a. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

None.

3. a. Delegations/Public Input:

Mr. Charles E. Thompson of 419 Springer Avenue, Columbus Junction, IA 52738 Phone 563-299-9104. Addressed the board to request that the possibility of allowing a four wheeler be used to go forward on the 300 meter range. Mr. Thompson advised the board that he is and has been a shooting range member. He likes to use the 300 meter range but due to the fact that he has a prosthesis and emphysema it is difficult if not impossible for him to go back and forth on the 300 meter range to place, view and remove his targets by himself. He advised that he has a state permit for the use of a 4 wheeler on state property and would like to board to consider his request.

Jim Steer, Shooting Range Advisory Committee Representative for the Board advised Mr. Thompson that he would take the request to the advisory committee for their review. Mr. Thompson provided a copy of his state permit for use of a 4 wheeler on state property to Board Member Steer to share with the Advisory committee. Mr. Thompson will be contacted once the board has met and discussed his request.

4. a. Approval of Minutes for February 05, 2014:

#18. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the minutes of the February 05, 2014 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for February 2014:

#19 a. Motion by Jim Garnjobst, seconded by Jim Steer, to approve the reports of activity for February 2014. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. Approval of Claims for February 2014:

#20. a. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the claims for February 2014. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a. Pat Mayle. \$10.00 donation 2nd donation for 2014.
- b. Martha Mansheim. 4 – Cans of milk replacement, heating pad, nursing kits and 2 snuggle hots. Valued at \$200.00. Wildlife Rehabilitation Program.
- c. James F. Barr. \$100.00 yearly donation for the Big Hollow Project.
- d. Mrs. Becky Vose. \$1,120.00. A Memorial in the name of her late husband John Vose. To be used toward a "...Fish cleaning station or to complete a project that many can enjoy."

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Shooting Range:** Jim Steer. No report.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Jim Garnjobst No report.
- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley reported that the Observatory held a meeting on February 19th. Newsletter and calendar has been placed on the website and copies forwarded to Board Members and Staff.
- d. **REAP:** Cathy Ziglar. No report. LaVon Worley will be in attendance at the Capitol Rotunda on March 18th for the REAP legislative and education meeting for the public.

9. Project Updates: By Director Lee

a. **Baker Property :**

The Land And Water Conservation Grant will be reviewed under New Business 11c.

b. **Big Hollow:**

Cabin. The cabin is now available online for reservations. We have two confirmed reservations to date. There will be an Open House/Grand Opening on March 29th from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

MOA. There is a potential for an amendment to the current MOA to be required. Roger Knowlton from the National Parks Service is working to determine what work will need to be coordinated among the various agencies. It would appear that the Final Report will necessarily be required. SHPO now has the documents and has been updated on the situation.

c. **DNR Wildlife Diversity Grant:**

This grant is currently in progress. The work is scheduled to be accomplished during the months of October thru December 2014. Work cannot be completed during August or September due to the requirement to not disturb the bats habitat.

d. **Other:**

Camping Books are now available. As per the boards instruction at an earlier meeting camping coupons are now available for sale. The books include six tickets for the price of five paid nights of camping. Coupon books will sell for \$75.00 and have a value of \$90.00 thus giving campers a break on their price experience. Coupon books will be available at the Admin Office, Nature Center as well as with the Rangers and Campground Hosts at the different campgrounds. Coupons are redeemable for one year from the date of purchase.

Flint River Trail has several washouts that occurred during the winter months. The will be addressed once the trail is dry enough to access.

Field Day is scheduled for April. A notice with the date will be sent to all.

Staff will hold a meeting on March 10th at the Administration Building to discuss a marketing plan and other pertinent items for the upcoming work schedule.

10. Old Business: This item was tabled until the next meeting. The suspense calendar will be researched further. A work session will be scheduled prior to the April Board Meeting to discuss this item.

#21. a. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by LaVon Worley, to once again table this item until the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

11. New Business:

a. Witte Observatory Agreement.

This agreement was forwarded to the members of the Observatory to review and sign. It has been signed by Observatory Committee President Jim Hilkin.

The agreement was signed by Chairwoman Ziglar after a motion and vote by members.

#22. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to sign the agreement with the Observatory for the upcoming year. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

b. Free Camping Weekend.

June 6, 7 & 8th will be the State of Iowa's Free Fishing Weekend. Des Moines County Conservation has in the past, held our Free Camping Weekend in conjunction with this weekend. Director Lee requested that Des Moines County Conservation provide this camping holiday for our camping visitors.

#22. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Steer, to authorize June 6, 7 & 8th of 2014 to be Free Camping Weekend at Des Moines County Conservation Parks. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

c. LAWCON:

The Board has had an opportunity to review the LAWCON grant that Director Lee has put together for Baker Property funding. Comments, additions and deletions were requested and received. The grant request is in the amount of \$150,000 with an equal match from Des Moines County Conservation. Grant will be sent in once it has been updated based upon input from the board at this meeting.

#23. A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Jim Garnjobst, to approve the grant application request. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

12. Informational Items/Correspondence/Board Comments:

a. Port Louisa. LaVon Worley advised that there will be an Aldo Leopold presentation by Steve Brower at the New Visitors Center on April 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Some of the Legacy Lumber has been donated for benches to be placed at the new center. This lumber came from the trees that were destroyed during a spring storm here in Burlington. The trees were part of the original Leopold home place.

b. Paul McCartney: The Beatles and Aldo Leopold.

Director Lee recently received a visit from Ron Eiben. Ron was interested in making sure that DMC Conservation was aware that some twenty years ago the Beatles had played at Ames, Iowa. During an interview with McCartney's interview he indicated that they were followers of Aldo Leopold. Searching the internet turned up information confirming the Beatles played at Ames around that time frame. Further research will be necessary to provide the link to Aldo Leopold.

13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

#24. Next meeting will be held at the Des Moines County Administration Office at 13700 Washington Road in West Burlington, IA. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on April 02th, 2014. The public is welcome.

Cathy Ziglar, Chair

Jim Garnjobst, Secretary/Treasurer