

1. Call to Order

Jim Garnjobst, Vice-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: Jim Garnjobst, Cathy Ziglar and LaVon Worley

Those Members Absent: James Steer & Angela Vaughan

Others Present: Ted Francis, Lyle Triska, Gary Fell, Supervisor Beck, Kent Rector, Chris Lee and Office Manager Joel Behne

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

a.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

a.

4. a. Approval of Minutes for September 02, 2015:

#63. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the minutes of the September 02, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for September 2015:

#64. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the reports of activity for September 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. Approval of Claims for September 2015:

#65. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the claims for September 2015. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a. Debra Martinson, \$50.00 for Wildlife Rehabilitation.
- b. Jennifer Yocum, \$50.00 for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Shooting Range:** Director Lee advised there was a meeting scheduled but no quorum.
- b. **Flint River Trails:** Cathy Ziglar. No report.
- c. **Observatory:** LaVon Worley. No report.
- d. **REAP:** Director Lee reported that Our Local REAP Assembly will be held next Tuesday October 13th, 6 pm at the Starr's Cave Nature Center Leopold Loft.

9. Project Updates: By Director Lee

a. Starr's Cave Nature Center Upgrades:

- Renovation work on the Nature Center continues. Kevin Moore has returned, however, he is in an out a lot due to his previously scheduled workload. Countertops and cabinets are in place and starting to look like an office. Looking towards a late October or early November completion date with a possible open house to be held on Tuesday November 24th.
- Possibility of a REAP CEP Grant for exhibits and may be possible to announce at same time.

- Director Lee will be bringing an updated Strategic Environmental Plan to the Board for the November meeting.

b. Flint River and Big Hollow Trails.

- Director Lee and Board Member Garnjobst attended a meeting of the Preserves Board in Des Moines this past week. Their presence was more a courtesy in an attempt to update them on our progress and our intentions to have an IDNR work crew rather than a low bidder with heavy equipment. This to be done in order to maintain the integrity of the Starr's Cave Park & Preserve grounds. The Preserves Board responded in a receptive and positive manner towards our efforts.
- Director Lee is working with the landowner at 155th Ave. at Hickory Bend. He is difficult to meet with as he is an over-the-road driver.
- Director Lee continues to work with DOT. The design letter is in and we may receive a response in as little as three weeks.

c. Leopold Recreation Area.

Director Lee met with a Ducks Unlimited Wetland Specialist regarding the bottom field. He and others have determined that the bottom soil is sandy to the point of it not being able to hold the water as would be required for a wetland area. It was recommended that rather than breaking the levee at this time that it would be more likely to succeed if grasses were planted and left for a while to cover the area. Then eventually the downstream area could be opened to allow the water to back fill rather than just allow the natural flow to take everything out, which it most probably would do.

10. Old Business: Donor Wall.

LaVon Worley had a print out of a conceptual layout from Leyda, Burrus & Metz. This design would run in the \$10,000 area and would be 6' x 5' in overall size.

As two other companies have been contacted by Director Lee and Board Member Garnjobst it will once again be placed on the agenda for November.

11. New Business:

a. BMAC Agreement:

Lyle Triska, President BMAC appeared on behalf of the Burlington Model Airplane Club. Lyle had been forwarded an updated version of the agreement as changes had been made prior to this meeting. The recently updated version was agreed upon by their membership. The agreement was signed by both the Board Chairman and President Triska. Original copies were provided for Conservation files as well as for the BMAC.

#66. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the BMAC management agreement. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

a. Shooting Range Reservation Request, DMCSO:

Lieutenant Clint Williams, DMCSO, sent a letter requesting use of three BH Shooting ranges on October 13th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m... The ranges will be used for an area law enforcement event to include established tactical/SWAT teams. Des Moines County Conservation Rangers will be assisting with and participating in the event.

#67. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the requested range reservation. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

- #68. b. Tama & Edgewater Beach Agreement. This agreement has been reviewed by Board Members. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the Tama & Edgewater Beach Agreement. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.
- c. Welter Recreation Area Agreement. This agreement has been review by Board Members. Primary change was from Lower Skunk Agreement to Welter Recreation Area which is what the area is now, and has been for some time, named.
- #69. d. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the Welter Recreation Area Agreement. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

12. **Informational Items/Correspondence:**

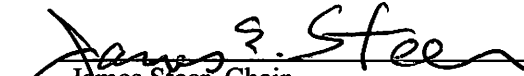
- a. IACCB Conference Reports. Reports from Director Lee, Jeremy Yost and Frances Owen were submitted for review by the Board. These reports are a standard practice for staff upon return from a training event.
- b. Linder Property
Elaine Linder, daughter of the late Harold Linder, has approached the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in an attempt to have them purchase the property. The Linder family would very much desire the property to stay in the hands of a conservation organization.

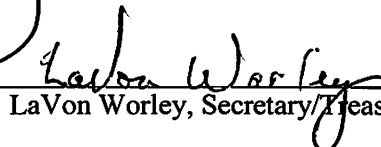
This is a property that Des Moines County Conservation made an initial agreement for with the Linder family back in 2007. Since that time the funding has not been available and therefore, we have not been able to pursue it further.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has expressed their interest in the property and has now completed an appraisal. The property appraised at \$419,400 for the 104.68 acres which is about the current selling rate of \$4,000 per acre locally. The family has expressed an interest in allowing the property to be purchased at a lower rate if it can stay with a conservation organization.

This information is being provided as information so that the board can determine if they wish to have further discussion on any and all possibilities for this land. Information will be placed on the November agenda with potential grants explored and an exit clause presented. Director Lee will investigate how this property will, or will not, fit in with our current public property. This property would be used primarily for public hunting and access.

13. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:38P 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 November 04, 2015. The public is welcome to attend.


James Steer, Chair


LaVon Worley, Secretary/Treasurer