

1. **Call to Order**

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

**Those Members Absent:** Angela Vaughan

**Others Present:** Jim Clelan, Supervisor Beck, Jeremy Yost, Chris Lee and Office Manager Behne

2. a. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda:**

None.

3. **Delegations/Public Input:**

- a. Jim Clelan, 14351 Hwy 99 introduced himself. He has concerns regarding the property next door to him. That property is owned by the Edgar & Clarice Laue Trust. The Laue address is 14371 Hwy 99. Mr. Clelan advised that the Laue property is causing a lot of erosion on his property. He believes it is a direct result of the property being in the Forest Reserve Program. Mr. Clelan has been to see the Assessors, Conservation, County Attorney and Supervisors regarding his problem. He has not been able to get any help or assistance from any of those. He has also contacted the IDNR, Senator Tom Courtney but to no avail.

Director Lee and Natural Resource Manager Yost will get together and try and determine if there is any possible source of relief. Director did not indicate that assistance would come from the Forest Reserve Program. It would have to be a soil and water or program of that type. Jeremy Yost made an appointment with Mr. Clelan to meet during the upcoming week. Chairman Garnjobst advised Mr. Clelan that if there were anything at all that we could accomplish that we would certainly try to accomplish it for him.

4. a. **Approval of Minutes for February 03, 2016:**

- #17. Motion by Jim Steer, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the minutes of the February 03, 2016 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

5. **Approval of Report of Activities for February 2016:**

- #18. a. Motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by Jim Steer to approve the reports of activity for February 2016. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

6. **Approval of Claims for February 2016:**

- #19. a. Motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Cathy Ziglar, to approve the claims for February 2016. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

7. **Acceptance of Donations**

- a. Jeff & Amy Burkhardt. \$50.00. Robert 'Bob' Zaiser Memorial for Big Hollow.  
b. \$4,505.00. Robert 'Bob' Zaiser Memorial for Big Hollow.

8. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Shooting Range:** LaVon Worley, No report.  
b. **Flint River Trails:** Angela Vaughan, No report.  
c. **Observatory:** Jim Steer reported that he attended his first meeting with the Observatory Committee on February 18, 2016. He advised they presented their budget of about \$1,400 from dues and that they are now aware of what they have available within the Partners Foundation. Their next meeting will be held on April 15 and the first public viewing for this season will be on April 01.

- d. **REAP:** Cathy Ziglar reported that she has made contact with Al Ourth. The next meeting will be after the 2016 report is published. That should be soon. The IWILL meeting will be held on 03-03-16. Director Lee will be attending.

9. **Project Updates: By Director Lee**

- a. **Big Hollow.** The Partners for Conservation annual meeting was recently held. This meeting officially kicked off the new Big Hollow Fundraising effort in earnest. David Wiemer, Partners President for this year has put together a formal gathering date to formulate the procedure they will follow for members on the committee to make individual contacts for contributions. This kickoff will be held at the Burlington Golf Club.

The LAWCON Grant, currently being applied for, if successful will allow construction at Big Hollow to happen in 2017.

Public Survey and results. Approximately 80 responses were received. 70% of respondents have visited BH 10 time or less during the year. The most popular activities by respondents was #1. Fishing, #2. Camping with Trails coming in at #3. A majority of those taking the survey believe a shower house and dump station or sewer system is of great importance. 63 of 77 respondents selected "yes" or "maybe" when asked if they support the use of local tax dollars on Big Hollow projects. One of the important findings of this particular survey was that we need to get to those who don't know about or currently use Big Hollow. Those that responded do use the facility.

b. **Hickory Bend DOT Mitigation Projects**

Director Lee has been in contact with the IDOT representatives. It appears that IDOT is moving forward on the purchase of the 62 acres from the Wasson's for their wetland projects. IDOT will contract and pay for all of the work to include wetland and trees. Trees planted will be 5 foot potted species of differing kinds that will be best suited for the terrain in the different areas of these 62 acres. Once the work is done we will sign a 28E agreement with IDOT to manage the property. Should the area flood and the trees die, the IDOT will replace them. This purchase in moving forward has a timeline to purchase toward the end of October 2016 with the work being contracted for the 2017 season.

10. **Old Business:**

a. **Big Hollow Donor Recognition Wall:**

Bids have been received from two contractors.

- Boecker Masonry's bid for labor only was \$7,535.00.
- McClure Masonry's bid for labor was \$4,000.00.

These bids are such that Des Moines County Conservation will provide the materials for this project.

Wapsi Archaeology has been contacted to complete the work for our Kiosk.

- #20. A motion by Cathy Ziglar, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the labor bid from McClure Masonry for the work on the BH Donor Recognition Wall in the amount of \$4,000.00  
Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

11. **New Business:**

a. **Field Tour Schedule**

- #. The DMC Conservation Board and the DMC Board of Supervisors will be participating in a tour of Conservation parks and facilities. Tours are scheduled for March 28, April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Director Lee will make plans to get the bus from SEIRPC for this tour. Should it rain the tour will go to the Nature Center where that portion can be conducted indoors. Otherwise all parks will be reviewed. This will be an opportunity for both boards to have a better overview of what Des Moines County Conservation is working on throughout the county.

**b. LWCF Grant Resolution.**

The Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant has been completed by Director Lee. One item for the completion of this grant is for the Board to make a formal resolution approving the pursuit of this grant application. The grant request is for \$150,000 which is 26% of the \$580,000 needed for the current Big Hollow funding request.

#21. A motion by Jim Steer, seconded by LaVon Worley, to approve the resolution for the LWCF grant request in the amount of \$150,000. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

**c. Hickory Bend land acquisition:**

#22. A motion by LaVon Worley, seconded by Jim Steer, for Director Lee to proceed with negotiations for the property being considered as an addition to property owned by Des Moines County Conservation and known as Hickory Bend. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

**12. Informational Items/Correspondence:**

**a. Partners Foundation Annual Meeting.**

The Partners for Conservation Annual Meeting was held on February 26, 2016. David Wiemer was re-elected to the position of President for the upcoming year. He has distributed an outline for those individuals whom are to be involved in the BH Fundraising process.

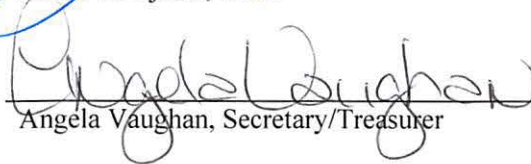
**13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.**

Prior to this meeting a work session was held from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to review a possible land acquisition and monthly business.

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 April 06, 2016. The public is welcome.



James Garnjobst, Chair



Angela Vaughan, Secretary/Treasurer