

1. Call to Order

James Steer, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation Board to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Starr's Cave Nature Center

Those Members Present: Jim Steer, Brad Coates, Dennis Imler, David Riley and Jay Johnson

Those Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Judy Smithson-Hilkin, Amanda Delperdang, Paul Kay, Director Perlstein and Joel Behne.

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

- a. CAT Grant Information added to item f. under New Business.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

- a. None

4. Approval of Minutes

- #09** a. Motion by David Riley, seconded by Brad Coates, to approve the minutes of the February 03, 2009 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for February 2010

- #10** a. Motion by David Riley, seconded by Dennis Imler, to approve the reports of activity for February 2010. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

6. Approval of Claims for February 2010

- #11** a. Motion by Jay Johnson, seconded by Brad Coates, to approve the claims for February 2010. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a. Dorothy Widdifield: Framed shadow box with 18 Monarch Butterflies. Framed shadow box with 12 Swallowtail Butterflies. Will be used for EE Programs.

8. Committee Reports

- a. **Flint Creek Advisory:** None.
- b. **Shooting Range:** None.
- c. **Flint River Trails:** David Riley advised that he'd been to a meeting within the past couple of weeks. SCP&P was again a topic of discussion. The director will soon, April 30th, present a request to the NRC to allow walking trails through western side of preserve.
- d. **Observatory:** Judy Smithson-Hilkin was present to sign the Cooperative Management Agreement for the John H. Witte Astronomical Observatory Complex. The agreement was signed by the board. Judy advised the board that a program had been scheduled for this spring. Members will present a 'Backyard Astronomy Class'. This program will be held evenings beginning April 27 through May 25. The annual meeting was held on Feb 10. Amanda Delperdang and Director Perlstein attended.
- e. **REAP:** None

9. Project Updates: None

10. Old Business:

a. Leopold Environmental Education Center

Board members were advised: The Crapo Park Advisory has voted to support the Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Center being placed on the Baker property. A check in the amount of \$4,500 has been presented by Partners for Conservation as payment for our part of the original Grant match. DMC Conservation has applied for a \$350,000 grant for the Baker property.

b. Flint River Trail: See information from the Advisory Committee section of FR Trails.

11. New Business:

#12 a. Request for Use of Alcohol: Fred Clark & Rachel White.

Motion by David Riley, seconded by Brad Coates, to approve the use of alcohol at the Nature Center for the Fred Clark/Rachel White Wedding to be held on March 27, 2010. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

b. Cooperative Management Agreement: Witte Observatory. This item was moved up to Committee Reports.

c. 2010-11 Budget Review. The budget was reviewed with the board. The total FY 10-11 budget for Conservation will be in the amount of \$697,011. A 10.4% increase.

d. Goals from Strategic Planning: This planning session was invaluable in that during the meeting numerous significant projects were identified. Staff was able to become more aware of all duties and responsibilities. This should assist in keeping our citizens in touch with the correct division for their needs. Staff will be working on a PF style fundraiser. Hopefully to be held in September 2010 at the Howard Johnson Motel.

e. Hunt Woods: It was requested that the board consider allowing hunting in Hunt Woods. The director would like to change the image of the park. After discussion the board requested that Natural Resource Manager Lee move forward with a plan to allow bow hunting.

f. CAT Grant: Director Perlstein presented the board with information regarding the CAT grant. Background, expenditures and the direction we need to go to achieve the completion of the grant. Director will submit a proposal to the Vision Iowa Board that would allow us to end the grant at its current level. The board indicated a consensus to pursue that proposal. Director Perlstein will make that proposal in the near future.

12. Informational Items/Correspondence

a. None.

13. Adjournment

#13 A motion by Brad Coats, seconded by David Riley to adjourn the March 03, 2010 DCCB meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

James Steer, Chair

Dennis Imler, Secretary/Treasurer