

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, David Riley and Jay Johnson

Those Members Absent: Dennis Imler

Others Present: Bob Beck, Eric Larson, Jeff Japsen, Tim Marshall, Bruce Clubb, Amanda Delperdang, Paul Kay, Chris Lee, Director Perlstein and Joel Behne.

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

- a. New Business 11a, FR Trail, Burlington City Planner Eric Larson presented a copy of a map that contained a location just north on Hwy 99. This location belongs to the Des Moines County Conservation Board through a previous FEMA buyout program. Eric was looking for approval from the board to work jointly to locate a Trail Head, hopefully, at this location for the City's portion of the FR Trail system. Eric believed this location to be useful for both the city and county. They would formulate a lease of some type for this land and maintenance would fall to the city. Eric requested the authority to pursue the location as a trail head. The board agreed that Eric should pursue this location. Eric will have a document drawn up by the City Attorney.
- b. New Business 11c, Archery Agreement: Jeff Japsen addressed the board regarding the yearly agreement for the use of a 4 wheeler at the Archery course at Big Hollow.

#14 Motion by David Riley, seconded by Jay Johnson, to renew the existing agreement. Chairman Steer signed the agreement.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

- a. James Steer, Chairman and the board congratulated Chris Lee and the Mediapolis 6th grade for their recent success with the Disney Planet Challenge.

4. Approval of Minutes

#15 a. Motion by Jay Johnson, seconded by Brad Coates, to approve the March 03, 2010 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

5. Approval of Report of Activities for March 2010

#16 a. Motion by David Riley, seconded by Brad Coates, to approve the reports of activity for March 2010. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

6. Approval of Claims for March 2010

#17 a. Motion by David Riley, seconded by Jay Johnson, to approve the claims for March 2010. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

7. Acceptance of Donations

- a. Rheinschmidt Flooring America. 50 carpet squares. For kids to sit on at summer camp and field trips.
- b. Myer Tree Farm Inc. Railroad ties. Used for building a bridge on the new trail along Big Hollow Lake. Value - \$100.00.
- c. Brad Coates. Rough cut white oak planking. Value - \$159.00. Used on trail Big Hollow.

8. Committee Reports

- a. **Flint Creek Advisory:** None
- b. **Shooting Range:** None. Meeting was held. No quorum. See minutes from Advisory Committee meeting of March 25, 2010.

- c. **Flint River Trails:** Meeting was held, however, a quorum was not available.
- d. **Observatory:** None
- e. **REAP:** None

9. Project Updates

- a. BH Trail: Operations Supervisor Paul Kay applied for and received a grant from New Belgium Brewing in the amount of \$5,000. This funding will be for rock chips on the trail.

10. Old Business:

a. Hunt Woods.

Chris Lee, Natural Resource Manager, presented the board with a set of Proposed Hunt Woods Hunting Regulations. All statewide hunting regulations apply. Small game and turkey hunting with shotgun or archery. No rifles or slugs allowed. Deer hunting by archery methods only. Shotgun deer hunting prohibited. No permanent tree stands or screw-in steps. Stands may be placed two weeks prior to season. Stands must be removed within two weeks of the close of the season. The park will be signed accordingly. David Riley respectfully noted that Mrs. Virginia Murray had recently passed. Mrs. Murray has always been a generous financial supporter of the Hunt Woods Park.

#18 Motion by Brad Coates, seconded by David Riley, to approve the rules as presented. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

- b. **FEMA.** Joel presented to the board a Project Worksheet and other associated paperwork from Welter Recreation Area. The outhouse there had been damaged during the flood of 2008. As DMC Conservation had numerous FEMA projects to complete the requirement of flood insurance, in these two (2) instances, had been overlooked. It had never been specifically noted that flood insurance was required on the restrooms in both Welter and 4th pumping station campground.

To date FEMA has indicated it will not waive or relent on the requirement which will ultimately cost county taxpayers approximately \$1,300.00 per year. That quickly becomes an amount in excess of original replacement costs.

The board requested that a letter be sent to FEMA indicating to them that DMC Conservation Board would be willing to waive any future responsibility or need to replace should the structure(s) be destroyed in another flooding incident. The new restrooms have been constructed out of precast concrete for the specific purpose of surviving any and all future flood events in those two areas. The restrooms are currently insured for normal liability etc.

At of this writing Des Moines County's insurance representative has indicated that the United States Legislature has adjourned without extending the protections of the NFIP. Therefore, I have been advised that DMCCBD could not insure the structure at this time to complete those two specific PW's as required by FEMA.

A letter will be prepared and forwarded to FEMA as requested by the board.

11. New Business:

- a. **FR Trail Request:** Eric Larson planner for the City of Burlington was moved up to 2a.
- b. **Acres for Wildlife:** Chris Lee presented the numbers for this year's project. There have been ten (10) applications secured. Two (2) projects have been completed to date. \$1,090.00 has been earned this season. The total number of acres in Des Moines County affected stands at thirty (30). Native Grass Seed Purchases have had ten (10) projects affecting 88 acres and a total of \$4,990.90 spent on seed.
- c. **Free Camping Weekend.** June 4, 5 & 6th has been set as Free Camping Weekend for Des Moines County Parks.

#19 Motion by Jay Johnson, seconded by David Riley, to have a Free Camping Weekend in June on the 4th, 5th and 6th. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

New Business Continued:

- d. **Archery Range Agreement – Flint River Bow Club.** Moved up to **2b Additions & Deletions to Agenda.**

12. Informational Items/Correspondence

- a. Director Perlstein updated the board as to current activities.
- Earth day will be held on the 17th of April. This is the Tenth Anniversary.
 - April is Aldo Leopold month. Leopold Benches will be made locally.
 - Recently notified that the Baker property grant application ranked 2nd this side of the State of Iowa. It will now be forwarded for further review. DMC Conservation will have an opportunity to fine tune it prior to re-evaluation.
 - RDG will be on site to walk the property.
 - Director Perlstein will be heading to Des Moines once again to visit with the Preservers Board regarding the trail within the SCP&P.

13. Adjournment

#20 A motion by David Riley, seconded by Brad Coates to adjourn the April 07, 2010 board meeting. Motion passed unanimously by all members present. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

James Steer, Chair

Dennis Imler, Secretary/Treasurer