



**ITEM C4. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:**

1. CF Industries - \$5,000 for Nature Center sidewalk project
2. America's Farmers Grow Communities Monsanto Fund/Lane & Kathy Tabke - \$2,500 for Naturalist Intern Fund
3. Mac & Connie Smith - \$50 memorial for Dorothy Clausen for scholarships
4. Stacey Gerhart - \$250 memorial for Charlie Zook for interns
5. Todd Benson - \$100 cash donation for programs
6. McCook Lake Izaak Walton League - \$100 for programs
7. Rick & Angie Schneider - Books, nature sculpture, prints, mugs, turkey fan and buckets
8. Doug Collins - Custom cards
9. KES Productions - Use of outdoor sound system
10. Rosie Kuehne - Gardening books
11. Bruce & Jeanette Hopkins - Advertising in Kids Scoop of Sioux City Journal

At Dan's request, the first two items on the agenda were addressed in reverse order to allow the HVAC engineer to present first.

**ITEM R2. HVAC Study – Engineer proposal – Board Questions (Dan)**

Kenny Schmitz with Woodbury County Building Services introduced Corey Metzger of Resource Consulting Engineers, stating that Corey has done a good job with other projects for the county and comes highly recommended. Corey presented his evaluation of the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center HVAC system, which is currently over 23 years old and had an initial life expectancy of 18 years. He noted that one of the 11 heat pumps had recently failed, prompting the study. He stated that problems exist with the ventilation heat pump and that it doesn't meet current code standards. He also reviewed the various areas in the building with heating and cooling concerns. Kenny noted that the other county buildings are tied into one HVAC monitoring system, but the Nature Center had not been able to be added due to limited available controls and communications constraints. With the recent approval of fiber optics for the Nature Center and the proposed HVAC equipment replacement, monitoring and some controls could be managed by Building Services remotely.

Both Kenny and Corey recommended replacing all HVAC equipment at one time, rather than doing it piecemeal as units fail. Corey proposed two options: 1) Direct heat pump replacement at a cost of \$405,000 or 2) Combination of variable refrigerant flow system and heat pump replacement at a cost of \$455,000.

Dan will present the proposal to the Board of Supervisors and request funding. Kenny recommended that conservation board members communicate their support by sending letters and/or attending the Supervisors meeting.

**ITEM R3. Budget 18/19 – Projects and equipment – RFP's on tractor (Dan) - Action**

Brian presented RFP results for a 2018 100HP cab tractor for Little Sioux Park. Proposals were received from Agrivision Equipment for \$47,084 and S&S Equipment for \$46,283, both after trade-in.

**MOTION** by Chris, second by Aaron.

To purchase a 2018 McCormick X5.40 tractor/loader from S&S Equipment for a cost of \$46,283 after trade-in.<sup>13-18</sup>

**VOTE:** Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Aaron Gehling, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

**ITEM R4. CMBA Architects – Proposal Review and Acceptance (Dan) - Action**

Dan presented a proposal from CMBA Architects for studies on the proposed roof upgrade for the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. The proposal includes roof and insulation design with bid-ready documents, as well as assistance with bidding and construction administration, for a fixed fee of \$10,500. Dan intends to present the resulting plan to the Supervisors along with the HVAC proposal, so they can be addressed at the same time.

**MOTION** by Chris, second by Suzan.

To proceed with the roof study from CMBA at a cost of \$10,500.<sup>14-18</sup>

**VOTE:** Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Aaron Gehling, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

**ITEM R5. Land Acquisition Update – Briese (Dan)**

Dan gave an update on the Briese auction results. Parcel 1 was purchased by the County Engineer's office at \$7,200/acre. As agreed, the Conservation Board will reimburse 50% or \$126,000 over 6 years for full ownership of the 35 acres after the graveling is complete. Parcel 3 was auctioned first, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation had the winning bid at \$3,700/acre, just under the appraised value of \$3729/acre, for a total purchase price of \$388,500. Various grant opportunities and strategies were discussed for funding the purchase of these parcels from the INHF.

**MOTION** by Chris, second by Cindy.

To authorize the director to pursue grant funding opportunities for the Briese land acquisition.<sup>15-18</sup>

**VOTE:** Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Aaron Gehling, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

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<sup>13-18</sup> To purchase a 2018 McCormick X5.40 tractor/loader from S&S Equipment for a cost of \$46,283 after trade-in.

<sup>14-18</sup> To proceed with the roof study from CMBA at a cost of \$10,500.

<sup>15-18</sup> To authorize the director to pursue grant funding opportunities for the Briese land acquisition.

**ITEM R6. Fish Habitat Grant Agreement with Iowa DNR – Brown’s Lake (Dan) - Action**

Dan announced that the Fish Habitat Stamp Grant request has been approved for \$78,013 towards the Brown’s Lake shoreline improvement project, leaving the board responsible for the remaining \$50,000. A cost-sharing agreement with the DNR needs to be approved and executed.

**MOTION** by Chris, second by Aaron.

To approve and authorize the director to sign the Fish Habitat Stamp Grant Cost-Sharing Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as presented.<sup>16-18</sup>

**VOTE:** Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Aaron Gehling, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

**ITEM R7. Capital Improvement Projects Update (Heissel)**

**1. Brown’s Lake Shoreline – JEO Proposal - Action**

Dan provided a proposal from JEO to complete the Brown’s Lake shoreline improvement project. JEO previously developed the preliminary plans which were used to apply for the Fish Habitat Grant. The current proposal includes finishing the architectural plans, obtaining all necessary permits, letting and receiving contractor bids, being onsite to assist with start-up, inspecting work upon completion, and providing any necessary follow-through at a cost of \$30,850. Work won’t start until after Labor Day, but the process needs to begin now. A public informational meeting will be held to explain the condition of the trees and necessity of removing them, as well as the plan for shoreline improvements and replanting. The meeting was tentatively set for June 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 p.m., following the Board meeting.

**MOTION** by Chris, second by Cindy.

To accept JEO Consulting Group’s proposal to carry out the Brown’s Lake shoreline improvement project to completion for a cost of \$30,850.<sup>17-18</sup>

**VOTE:** Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Aaron Gehling, Neil Stockfleth, & Suzan Boden  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

**2. Fiber Optics Update**

Dan reported that he had met with all players in the Nature Center fiber optics project. He will be meeting with the City Manager and Mayor on April 9<sup>th</sup> to get approval for use of the city’s fiber from Riverside to the courthouse downtown. A map is being plotted with GIS from the Nature Center to Riverside. The planned route follows Highway 12 on the west and goes through the Railroad Museum land. A 28E agreement will be signed with the Railroad Museum in exchange for allowing them fiber access. The County Engineer will work on needed right-of-way permits for Highway 12.

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<sup>16-18</sup> To approve and authorize the director to sign the Fish Habitat Stamp Grant Cost-Sharing Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as presented.

<sup>17-18</sup> To accept JEO Consulting Group’s proposal to carry out the Brown’s Lake shoreline improvement project to completion for a cost of \$30,850.

### 3. Little Sioux Park – Beach Update

Dan met with the contractor for the Little Sioux beach project. They had planned to start on Monday but were delayed by snow. In an attempt to save money, the planned 50' of permeable pavers were going to be replaced with straight concrete. However, questions were recently raised about erosion issues with that option. It was decided that poly-plastic French drain channels will be added every 10' to slow down the water flow.

## ITEM R8. Board member/staff reports

### 1. Nature Center activities (Dawn)

Dawn reported on the following Nature Center activities:

- Programs and visitors report for March was distributed.
- A memorial thank-you from the Charlie Zook family was presented.
- CF Industries has donated \$5,000 towards the Nature Center sidewalk project.
- A \$2,500 donation was received from Monsanto to be added to the naturalist intern fund.
- The sidewalk project will be finished as soon as the weather allows.
- Dave Guggenmos has been contacted and reminded of the deck replacement project to take place this spring.
- Former summer intern, Brianna Martens, has been hired for the six-month Assistant Naturalist position and will start later this month. She will be allowed to live in the second residence in Stone Park in return for providing them one free program per month.
- The rest of the interns will begin work at the end of May.
- Summer camp registration for Foundation members opened yesterday. Camp lengths and schedules have been reorganized to provide over 400 openings this year, instead of the usual 300.
- The Nature Center was awarded the DOT grant for trail work this summer. Former Deputy Director, Mark Peterson, has agreed to act as crew leader. The crew is scheduled to start on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- An application has been submitted to MHRD for a \$15,000 grant to purchase new audiovisual equipment for the classrooms. A response should be received by mid-May.
- The timing of delivering Nature Calls sponsor packets was discussed.
- Dawn met with the Convention Center staff regarding Nature Calls. The probability of the parking lot being unavailable due to hotel construction would limit access to the loading area, so a third gallery will be provided at no charge.
- Today's swan release event at Little Sioux was covered by Channel 9 and the Sioux City Journal, as well as Facebook live videos. One male signet and three female swans were released. The male is healthy but has been imprinted with humans. The females won't reproduce until six years old, which is a few years away. Swan handlers for the day were former Director Rick Schneider, former board member Don Dixon, current board member Chris Zellmer-Zant, and Assistant Resource Manager Nathan Silfies.

### 2. Park activities (Brian)

Brian reported on the following park activities:

- Burns will be done after the weather clears.
- Job offers have been sent out for summer ranger and maintenance positions.
- Only two certified officers have applied for the security guard positions so far.
- The trees and shrubs order for the season will be delivered on Monday.

- Snyder Bend and Brown's Lake staff participated for two days of a cooperative burn in Harrison County, in which 900 acres were burned in a single day.
- The garbage contract was renewed for Little Sioux and Southwood using department-supplied dumpsters. The bottoms of three dumpsters have been replaced by Port Neal Welding. Remaining dumpsters can be repaired by staff once a wire welder is purchased.
- Staff at Southwood have been planning food plots for this spring.
- Law enforcement equipment was transferred from Southwood's 2006 pickup to the 2011 extended-cab pickup for Erik Lindsay.
- The John Deere tractor and loader have been ordered from Agrivision.
- Two pistols and four vests have arrived and are ready to be picked up.

**3. Administrative items (Dan)**

Heissel reported on the following items:

**a. Set May meeting date**

The next meeting was set for 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2018, at Snyder Bend Park.

**b. Nature Center 28E – Informational**

The 28E Agreement for the Nature Center building expired in December 2017 but was extended to December 2018. Dan noted a few needed changes, such as the residence no longer being used as the Nature Center, and it will be updated and addressed in November.

**c. Bylaws – Hand out revised copies for review**

Dan presented copies of proposed changes to the current Bylaws and asked board members to review them prior to acting on them at the May meeting.

**d. Set Summer Board Meeting Locations and Times**

The summer board meeting location schedule was discussed and set tentatively as follows:

May 10 – Snyder Bend Park

June 14 – Brown's Lake/Bigelow Park

July 12 – Little Sioux Park

August 9 – Southwood Conservation Area

The annual appreciation picnic for county department heads will take place at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center following the October board meeting.

**e. Other**

Dan reported that he had received a letter from the Community Action Committee stating that the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center was one of the 55 charities designated to receive \$10,000 in the settlement of a lawsuit against the Belle of Sioux City regarding unpaid revenue-sharing funds. Dan suggested using half of the payment to cover the grant shortage in purchasing AV equipment for both classrooms, with the remaining half

potentially being used to purchase a portable sound system. Dan will have the County Attorney review the agreement before signing.

**ITEM R9. Director 6-Month Evaluation – Closed Session, Chapter 21A, Iowa Code**

Rather than adjourning as stated in the agenda, the board went into closed session for the Director’s six-month evaluation at 7:05 p.m. by motion from Suzan Boden and second by Chris Zant. Chairman Stockfleth held the roll call vote: Suzan Boden – Aye, Cindy Bennett – Aye, Chris Zellmer-Zant – Aye, Aaron Gehling – Aye, and Neil Stockfleth – Aye.

The board discussed Director Heissel’s performance for the past six months and future goals. The session was recorded.

At 7:30 p.m., Suzan Boden moved to come out of closed session, which was seconded by Chris Zellmer-Zant and carried unanimously by roll call vote: Suzan Boden – Aye, Cindy Bennett – Aye, Chris Zellmer-Zant – Aye, Aaron Gehling – Aye, and Neil Stockfleth – Aye.

The board proceeded to discuss the Director’s performance and everything that has been accomplished and is in the works. The board, following discussion about Dan exceeding expectations on his review, decided on his pay step increase.

**MOTION** by Suzan, second by Cindy.

To increase Director Heissel’s annual salary by \$5,000, the equivalent of two pay steps, effective with the pay period closest to May 1, 2018.<sup>18-18</sup>

**VOTE:** Aye: Chris Zellmer-Zant, Cindy Bennett, Aaron Gehling, Neil Stockfleth, &  
Suzan Boden  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

**ITEM R10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

The above minutes were recorded by Dawn Bostwick.

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Recording Secretary, Dawn Bostwick

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Board Secretary, Cindy Bennett

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Board Chairman, Neil Stockfleth

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<sup>18-18</sup> To increase Director Heissel’s annual salary by \$5,000, the equivalent of two pay steps, effective with the pay period closest to May 1, 2018.