

**Dallas County Conservation Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
April 12, 2016**

**Call to Order**

The Dallas County Conservation Board meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the Forest Park Museum Administration Building in Perry, Iowa by board chair Mark Powell.

**Roll Call**

Present were board members Mark Powell, Nancy DeLong, Glenn Vondra, Lorinda Inman, and Jim Miller. Director Mike Wallace and administrative assistant Sherry James were also in attendance.

**Guests**

Several guests were in attendance for the Public Hearing regarding the RRVT to HTT Connector Project.

**Agenda**

Action: Jim Miller moved and Glenn Vondra seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voted “aye”, motion carried.

**Open Forum**

There was nothing presented.

**Consent Agenda**

Action: Jim Miller moved and Nancy DeLong seconded to approve the consent agenda items including the March income/expenditure report and the monthly staff reports. All members present voted “aye”, motion carried.

Director Wallace reported there was a recent break-in into the shop at the Forest Park location. The alarm went off and scared them away. They did take some tools. Staff adjusted the door mechanism.

**March 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Lorinda Inman reported the March 8 minutes did not reflect her intended comments regarding the I-35 Monarch Corridor Project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced new steps to reverse the decline of the Monarch butterfly, including efforts to restore more than 200,000 acres of habitat along the Interstate 35 corridor from Texas to Minnesota. Among the proposals is a plan to create a pollinator highway along the I-35 corridor, which extends from Mexico to Minnesota and follows a main route for the annual monarch butterfly migration. The route will be lined with milkweed and other habitat plants, providing refuge and a food source to monarchs on the move.

Action: A motion was made by Glenn Vondra and seconded by Nancy Inman to approve the amended March 8, 2016 board meeting minutes as written. All members present voted “aye”, motion carried.

**City of Redfield Sidewalk Request at Hanging Rock** – Director Wallace reported the City of Redfield is planning a new bike-friendly sidewalk from downtown to the Casey’s Store. It will not affect the Conservation Board and will be paid for by the City of Redfield. There was board

discussion regarding some angles in the plans that might not be bike friendly as well as any damage to the prairie located near this area.

Action: Glenn Vondra moved and Nancy DeLong seconded to approve the project pending review of the final design. All members present voted “aye”, motion carried.

**David Whitney’s Request to Use Forest Park for a Film** – Director Wallace report that David Whitney is filming a Star Trek movie and has requested to film part of the movie in the Forest Park Museum near the Henry Nelson Dynamo Generator.

It was the consensus of the board to table this topic until the May meeting with discussion with the county attorney regarding legality concerns.

**Marten’s Property Addition to the Kuehn Conservation Area** – Director Wallace reported that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is interested in acquiring a couple of parcels of property that join Kuehn Conservation Area.

Action: Glenn Vondra moved and Jim Miller seconded to approve the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to proceed with this opportunity. All members present voted “aye”, motion carried.

**Use of the RRVT for Donors** – Jim Miller reported that several years ago he was approached from a large donor to the trail that it would be a nice gesture if the donors received free membership on the trail. There is a large donor towards the Trail Art Project that brought this idea up again now. They suggested a specific weekend for their employees could be free. There was board discussion regarding whether this would only be on the Dallas County trail or all three counties. It was suggested that the donation be 50/50, with 50% going into the formula that is shared with the three counties and the other 50% go towards the project.

Action: Mark Powell moved and Lorinda Inman seconded to approve donors with a minimum of \$5,000 donated towards the trail be given the opportunity to have a designated free weekend for their employees with the 50/50 split. The following members voted “aye”: Powell, Inman and Vondra. The following members abstained from voting: Miller and DeLong. Motion carried.

**Easement/Field Crossing at Panther Creek on the RRVT** – Director Wallace reported he had nothing to report at this time.

**City of Woodward 28E Agreement** – Woodward Mayor Brian Devick distributed a rough draft of a 28E Agreement between Dallas County Conservation and City of Woodward that would allow mobility challenged people an opportunity.

Action: Jim Miller moved and Nancy DeLong seconded to proceed with the 28E Agreement following review from the appropriate Conservation Directors and County Attorneys. Powell abstained. Motion carried.

### **Public Hearing**

Action: Jim Miller moved and Nancy DeLong seconded to go into public hearing for discussion/public input regarding the various options, routes and plans for a proposed paved recreational trail connecting Perry to Woodward, RRVT to HTT Connector Project.

Rich Voelker, Snyder and Associates, presented the options available for the connector project and reviewed some grant funding. He reported that some property owners have shown no

interest in accommodating the new trail. A group did approach the Dallas County Supervisors regarding paving a port of the road way; however, they do not have the finances for this project.

Several in attendance spoke offering assistance to complete the project.

Director Wallace spoke about the survey that Iowa State University students are assisting. Perry Mayor Pattee offered the city's assistance for the completion of this survey indicating that it would benefit everyone from outside the community as well as within the city.

Action: Lorinda Inman moved and Glenn Vondra seconded to close the public hearing. All members present voted "aye", motion carried.

**RRVT to HTT Connector Project** –

Action: Glenn Vondra moved and Jim Miller seconded to begin project development activities on Alignment A including survey, design, and negotiations for the right-of-way or easements from willing property owners. All members present voted "aye", motion carried.

**Paved Crossing Project** – Rich Voelker, Snyder and Associates, updated the board regarding the paved crossings in Dallas County. He reported that the plans have been submitted to the DOT for a June bid letting with a recommendation of 3 crossings as the base bid and add crossings as alternates.

**City of Adel Sections of the RRVT** – Director Wallace reported that there is a renewed interest from an Adel Trail Committee to improve the Adel Trail Head. The city is wanting to take on more responsibility within the city limits.

**Budget** – Director Wallace reported there was nothing new to report. He is preparing information for their spring amendment.

**Other Business**

Glenn Vondra reported the State Legislators are reviewing the REAP program as there is discussion of using that funding for the water quality funding.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss at this time, Jim Miller moved and Nancy DeLong seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

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Mark Powell, Chairperson

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Date

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Sherry James, DCCB Staff

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Date