

**MINUTES
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD
MILLS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
GLENWOOD, IOWA
MARCH 22, 1995**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Shirley Schermer, Chair
Diane Ford-Shivvers
Joel Hanes
Martha Maxon
Jonathan Steege
Larry Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Kindwall

ADVISORS PRESENT

Kathy Gourley
Jan Hey

ADVISORS ABSENT

Dorothy Baringer
Jan Nash
Robert McKay
Daryl Smith

STAFF PRESENT

Daryl Howell
John Pearson

STAFF ABSENT

Mike Carrier

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Schermer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

The following adjustments were made to the agenda:

- Add - Item #10 - Plans for June Board Meeting
- Add - Item #11 - Information on Tree Treatment Research (John Steege)

Motion was made by Martha Maxon to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Joel Hanes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Chairperson Schermer noted that, on Page 3, the spelling of Ted Silke should be corrected to read Ted Sojka. Also, on Page 8, third paragraph from the bottom, it should read Glenwood earth “lodge” archaeological site rather than “earth form archaeological site.”

Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 1994, as amended. Seconded by Larry Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD TOUR

The Board will tour Missouri River bluffland (West Oak Forest) and a reconstructed earth lodge in Glenwood, at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

MALCHOW MOUNDS

Daryl Howell reported that Charles Poisel was contacted about selling the grazing rights he had retained at the time the property was donated. Mr. Poisel was in agreement with having an appraisal done, therefore Land Acquisition Bureau is working on it and should have an appraisal completed and contact made with Mr. Poisal by the June meeting.

Discussion followed in regard to options that may be used to reduce the grazing impacts on the mounds if the grazing rights purchase fails.

NEW ADVISOR

Martha Maxon introduced new Board advisor, Jane Hey.

SYLVAN RUNKEL MEMORIAL

John Pearson stated that it has been suggested that a memorial be commemorated in Sylvan Runkel’s name. He related that he and Daryl Howell have given thought to either re-naming an existing preserve or naming a portion of the Loess Hills Wildlife Area after Mr. Runkel. Daryl Howell noted that he

spoke with Dorothy Baringer and she felt that changing the name of the Turin Loess Hills Preserve would be appropriate since Sylvan was involved in establishing that preserve and led many tours there. He added that the name could possibly be changed to the Sylvan Runkel Turin Preserve.

Martha Maxon asked what would need to be done to change a preserve's name.

Director Wilson replied that it would need to be changed on all court records and then presented to the Natural Resource Commission for approval and the Governor would also have to approve it.

Joel Hanes asked if a dedication ceremony would be held in renaming a preserve.

Director Wilson stated that it would probably be best to wait until there is a new area coming into the preserve system and name it after Sylvan rather than renaming an area.

Joel Hanes agreed that the dedication of a new area would be a more appropriate way of honoring Mr. Runkel.

Discussion continued and consensus was to give some thought to possible areas to be named in memory of Mr. Runkel and discuss it further at the June meeting.

STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT

John Pearson presented the following list of his Preserves related activities for the period of January through March 1995.

- Assisted with training of three interns in GIS data entry. The GIS data will be used for ecosystem management planning efforts in parks, including Pilot Knob, Mt. Talbot, and Palisades-Dows preserves.
- Held meetings with ecosystem management teams for the above preserves, including field days for vegetation sampling.
- Converted Natural Areas Inventory records for plant communities to computer filing system used in national database developed by The Nature Conservancy.
- Assisted with the preparation and mailing of the request for research proposals for 1995-1996 SPAB funding.
- Monitored progress of SPAB research projects approved for 1994-1995, including permanent forest plots (Farrar and Raich) and GLO vegetation mapping (Anderson).

Daryl Howell listed the following SPAB related activities for the period of January through March 1995.

- Completed the biennial report for State Preserves and submitted copies to the Governor and Legislature as required by Code Section 465C.
- Updated a draft management plan for Mossy Glen State Preserve. The draft plan has been circulated within the DNR for comments.
- Completed announcement requesting proposals for preserve research projects.
- Contacted Mr. Poisel about the possibility of selling the grazing rights for Malchow Mounds State Preserve. Mr. Poisel agreed and the Department is now proceeding with an appraisal or letter of value for the grazing rights.
- Preparation of the agenda for the March Meeting.

Mr. Pearson noted that over the last year approximately 30% of his time was spent on SPAB work. Mr. Howell related that, overall, he has spent approximately 45% of his time on SPAB work in the last year.

Chairperson Schermer asked if there is any possibility of adding staff to take some of the pressure off Daryl and John.

Director Wilson stated that the only staff to be added will be in the Water Quality and Air Quality federal program areas. Discussion centered on the possibility of other staff helping with Preserves work. Mr. Wilson gave examples of how staff in other divisions have portions of their work which is closely related or overlap with SPAB work.

Joel Hanes spoke about the need to find a way for dependable, sizeable, established funding for the preserves.

Director Wilson commented that some states are looking at establishing a surcharge, or user fee, on outdoor equipment to be used for funding wildlife diversity programs. He related that there is a coalition established in Iowa that is working on the same thing. Daryl Howell will send some information on this issue to the Board members and advisors.

Joel Hanes stated that perhaps, through this coalition in Iowa, some pressure could be put on the legislature to provide money for preserves and wildlife diversity.

Further discussion took place in regard to shifting some of Daryl and John's work to other employees.

Director Wilson indicated that he will not ask for another staff person but will visit with Mike Carrier about redirecting some of their duties within the division.

PRAIRIE HERITAGE WEEK

Daryl Howell reported that 1995 is the 50th anniversary of Hayden Prairie and a poster commemorating Hayden Prairie will be prepared for Prairie Heritage Week (September 3-9). He related that the department would like to have a ceremony at Hayden during Prairie Heritage Week.

Joel Hanes noted that he received a call from Helen Perkins, Howard County, and she is privately raising money for an information sign to be erected at Hayden Prairie. She wanted to know if anything was going to be done for the bi-centennial in 1996 and indicated that they would like to have Hayden Prairie tied into some celebration at that time.

Discussion followed regarding the format and program for a ceremony to be held at Hayden Prairie during Prairie Heritage Week. The Board decided to hold its regular meeting during the morning of Friday, September 8, and hold a ceremony at Hayden Prairie that afternoon.

Also discussed was the possibility of inserting the poster in the Iowa Conservationist. Director Wilson indicated that he will check with I & E about putting the poster in the magazine and possibly reprinting some past preserves articles, particularly from 1945.

STATE PARKS SYMPOSIUM

John Pearson reported that the department is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Iowa State Parks this year and he distributed copies of a special issue of the Iowa Conservationist commemorating the occasion. He displayed a poster with a picture of an area in Maquoketa Caves State Park, which also commemorates the State Parks 75th Anniversary. A new Iowa map highlights the state parks with a symbol of the state bird, the American Goldfinch, at each park location. Mr. Pearson noted that there will be a State Parks Symposium at Wartburg College in Waverly, on April 20-21, 1995. He encouraged all Board members to attend the symposium if possible. There will also be an open house held at each of the state parks on various dates in May. On May 28, Backbone State Park will be rededicated.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

John Pearson stated that he and Daryl Howell have prepared a Request for Research Proposal for State Preserves and have mailed copies to many of the previous grant recipients, archaeologists, botanists, and biologists. The deadline for submittal is April 28, therefore the proposals should be ready for a decision at the June meeting. Mr. Pearson reviewed that at the last meeting a suggestion was made to do some repeat studies at Hayden Prairie and Sheeder Prairie. He related that he asked Paul Christiansen, who had done the previous studies at Hayden Prairie, to provide a cost estimate for the repeat study. Mr. Christiansen estimated the cost to be approximately \$2,050. Mr. Pearson related that he

asked Tom Rosburg to provide a cost estimate for a repeat study at Sheeder Prairie and noted that if it is a sole-source type of contract it has to go through a University or nonprofit organization, which might add an additional 15% cost. With the extra 15%, Mr. Rosburg's estimate would be \$2,500.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of getting the 15% waived. Mr. Pearson indicated that he has asked Mr. Rosburg to visit with his grants administration office about a waiver.

Mr. Pearson stated that the Board needs to determine whether they want to take the cost for specific items off the top of the research money. He indicated that these items would amount to \$2,000 for the intern, \$2,550 for Sheeder Prairie, and \$2,050 for Hayden Prairie, for a total of \$6,600. The balance in the research money to go to competitive bids would be approximately \$18,000.

Discussion followed regarding the intern's work.

Motion was made by Joel Hanes to set aside \$6,600 from research funds for studies at Hayden Prairie, Sheeder Prairie, and the intern position, leaving \$18,000 for competitive bids on research proposals. Seconded by Martha Maxon.

Jonathan Steege expressed concern over funding projects without first seeing all of the proposals, and also with awarding them to specific individuals.

Chairperson Schermer pointed out that the motion was to set aside a certain amount money for the studies but does not specify who will do the study.

Vote on the motion carried unanimously.

JUNE MEETING

Chairperson Schermer reported that she spoke with Jan Nash last week and she, along with Rebecca Conard, would like to speak to the Board about some of their ideas for historic preserves. She related that they discussed the possibility of meeting at one of the historic preserves in June. Chairperson Schermer suggested meeting near Mt. Pisgah Preserve, in Union County. The Board decided to tour the area on Monday, June 12, in the afternoon. The meeting will be held in Creston Tuesday, June 13, in the morning.

TREE TREATMENT RESEARCH

Jonathan Steege stated that as part of a Living Roadway Trust Fund grant he received he will be doing some research using four different types of treatment,

on various tree species, in separate areas. He related that he will monitor results from each type of treatment on different species. Mr. Steege pointed out that some of the products use more chemicals than others and he expanded on those products and their effects. Mr. Steege noted that the research results may be used in the future by roadside managers, utility companies, the Preserves Board, etc. He added that he hopes to provide some study results by the December meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION - REAP

Director Wilson distributed fact sheets on the REAP program showing funding from 1989 and how it was spent. It also gave results of an ISU survey which showed that 66.7% of those surveyed felt the DNR should acquire more land for natural resource uses. He noted that there are efforts to cut Open Spaces funding and place the money in other programs, and also to limit the amount available for the purchase of land. Mr. Wilson emphasized that it would set a bad precedent to change the spending formula established by the REAP Congress and he urged Board members to contact their legislators on this issue.

Joel Hanes stated that each REAP Congress to date has stressed over and over not to change the spending formula.

DISCUSSION OF PRESERVES SYSTEM WITH MILLS COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Richard Allensworth, Mills County Conservation Board Director, introduced Amy Christensen, County Supervisor and Allen Wright, Mills County Conservation Board Vice-Chair. He noted that they would like to know details about the preserves system and how it operates.

Chairperson Schermer thanked the Board of Supervisors for hosting SPAB and providing the tour yesterday. She presented a history of the Preserves Board and explained the five preserve categories. She noted that there are 87 preserves in the state and further explained their ownership and management policies.

John Pearson explained that state preserve status is honorific, provides the highest level of legal protection to any land in the state, provides available funding for research on preserves, makes advisory oversight available, and provides management plans and a dedication statement.

Martha Maxon emphasized that protection of an area is a great benefit. She gave an example where a utility board was considering construction near a preserve but backed off when they saw the hurdles they would have to go through.

Joel Hanes commented that preserve status provides a variety of management strategies. He related that one of the best benefits of a preserve is that it outlives each of us and gives long term consistency to the area.

Mr. Allensworth asked how often the DNR staff follow up on each preserve.

John Pearson indicated that there is not a regular schedule but he and Daryl Howell visit several preserves each year and they rely on the area manager to let them know their needs or concerns.

Discussion followed regarding the type of protection provided to a preserve.

Chairperson Schermer noted that dedication of a preserve will help to increase public awareness and may also increase tourism.

Director Wilson explained that having an area in the preserve system is a status symbol and shows that it is prominent and of importance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Martha Maxon. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Schermer adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m., Wednesday, March 22, 1995.