



Outdoor Alliance of Story County 2014 Annual Report

The Outdoor Alliance of Story County (OASCO) filed its Articles of Incorporation with the State of Iowa in December 2012. In 2013 our focus was on filing our 501(c)3 non-profit status with the IRS and preparing to launch the organization. The IRS approved OASCO tax deductible status in December 2013.

Building on this foundation in 2014, the OASCO launched a web site, opened an endowment fund with Story County Community Foundation and is finalizing the ability to accept donations via the web site. While these efforts are still ongoing, the OASCO attended several public forums: Story County's OWLS program, Ames Ecofair, Story County Conservation Partners and the second annual legislative reception hosted with Story County Conservation.

The OASCO has been working with Pheasants Forever, Big Bluestem Audubon and other donors to help fund transportation costs for Story County Conservation's school service learning projects. This is OASCO's first project and we are pleased that it will continue into next year.

The OASCO received a development grant from our endowment partner, Story County Community Foundation. With this development grant, our hope is to begin raising funds from more supporters for both the permanent financing of the OASCO's endowment as well as other funds for current projects and operations.

Our plans for 2015 are still taking shape. Besides continuing the transportation cost sharing program for school service learning projects with Story County Conservation and our first development campaign in the spring, we also hope to be involved with the acquisition of new public open spaces.

John Pohlman and Diane Birt both joined the board this year. John has long been and continues to be active in numerous outdoor groups and projects. John is a former Story County Conservation board member. Diane has long enjoyed the outdoors hiking, backpacking, biking and paddling. Diane brings her well established experience in grant writing to the board.

Looking ahead, the OASCO will miss Mike Meetz and Todd Burras who were founding board members and who both retired from the Executive Board in 2014 for family reasons. Mike will continue as the registered agent. Thanks for their service with the OASCO and for all of their many other efforts to enhance outdoor recreation, education and conservation in Story County.

Mission: Enhancing outdoor recreation, education and conservation in Story County

Board: John Pohlman, Chair, Diane Birt, Vice Chair, Linda Zaletel, Secretary, Greg Vitale, Treasurer

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