



Board Members

Joellen Schantz
Vacant
Josh Hardin
Shawn Maine
Elizabeth Kling

Louisa County Conservation Board – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Louisa County Conservation Board met in regular session on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Louisa County Office Complex

Board Present: Josh Hardin, Joellen Schantz, Elizabeth Kling, and Shawn Maine

Staff Present: Jacob Ewart, Lana Artz-McComb, Tanner Hollingsworth

Public Present: Jim Rudisill, Randy Schlutz, Bill Peirce, Randy Smith, Jerry Ford (via cell phone)

Meeting Called to Order: at 3:06 pm by Maine

1. Agenda Approval: Hardin motioned to approve the agenda, Shantz seconds. Motion passed all ayes.

2. Audience Consideration: Public stated they were at the meeting for the item number 4; opening the bids for surplus items

3. Consent Agenda: Hardin motioned to approve. Kling Seconds, motion passed all ayes.

4. Open bids and sale of Surplus Items: Each board member was handed an envelope for each of the equipment items. The floor was opened after each item for audience members that had bid on each item to raise their bid if they wanted. No one did.

Maine opened bids for the Dixon Mower and read one bid from Harry Westfall for \$10.00. Motion made by Hardin to sell the Dixon Mower to Westfall for \$10.00. Second by Shantz. Motion passes all ayes.

Kling opened bids for 3 point Sickle. First bid - \$25 by Harry Westfall. Second bid - \$175 by Bill Peirce. Motion made by Kling to sell the 3 point sickle to Bill Pierce for \$175. Second by Hardin. Motion Passes all ayes.

Shantz opened bids for Dearborn Scoop. First bid - \$5 by Harry Westfall. Second bid - \$27.60 by Keith Trafton. Motion made by Kling to sell Dearborn Scoop to Keith Trafton for \$27.60. Second by Shantz. Motion passes all ayes.

Hardin opened bids for the Massey Ferguson Tractor. First bid – Mike Reid for \$152. Second Bid – Harry Westfall for \$1,000. Third bid – Randy Schlutz for \$1,111. Fouth Bid – Jerry Ford for \$2,500. Fifth Bid – Randy Smith for \$3,250. Motion by Hardin to sell the Massey Ferguson Tractor to Randy Smith for \$3,250. Second by Shantz. Motion passes all ayes.

5. Approval of Easement Beatrice Calvelage Estate – TREN Corp. – Louisa County Board: Ewart explained Conservation Board was asked to approve an easement with Tren Corp and Beatrice Calveage Estate. This was because LCCB already has an easement with TREN Corp and it is in the county's interest to approve and recommend this to the BOS for approval. It essentially is to give permission to share the current easement. This easement is located along the north boundary of Indian Slough and shouldn't change current management or access points for LCCB. Hardin asked if Adam Parsons, county attorney, had any issues with this, and Ewart reported "no". Motion by Hardin to approve the Easement with parties involved. Second by Kling. Motion passes all ayes.



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- 6. Approval of Memorial Bench from Emmy Fuller :** Emmy Fuller has contacted LCCB to erect a memorial bench at Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area. It will be in the name of her father, John Fuller. The sign will read “In loving memory of John Fuller”. It will be located in the front yard of Chinkapin, potentially alongside a white oak tree that she and Ewart are discussing. She will pay for the entirety of the bench – shipping included. Hardin asked if the bench would be in the same spot as the last memorial bench, and it won’t be. Motion by Hardin to approve the memorial bench for Emmy Fuller. Second by Kling. Motion passes all ayes.
- 7. Hoover Nature Trail Land Sales Update:** Ewart updated the board on the Board of Supervisors meeting in regards to the public hearing for the HNT parcels conservation board recommended selling. Many public were present, including those who the land would potentially be sold to. In general, the members of the public that were not going receive the land pushed the hardest to sell the land to the other landowners for \$1 instead of the agreed on price by the conservation board. Hardin asked Ewart to make sure the public and BOS knows that the money from that sale will help the Conservation Board reach their budgetary needs of income from land sales that was budgeted last year. Also discussed was an email written by Trail Enthusiast, Darrin Ochsner. He was writing in opposition of the trails being sold. Discussion about logistics of connecting lands and realistic goals happened. Conservation Board closed with a note of thanks to Ochsner as he was sticking up for what he believed was correct and Ewart will follow up with more information for him.
- 8. Director Update:** Ewart discussed a boy scout member wanting to complete an Eagle Scout Project at Langwood and agreed to help him. They will build a footbridge using vastly lumber and materials already on hand from previous projects. He reported a new pump at Langwood, a \$953.94 grant from ICAP for the purchase of safety equipment. He will meet Travis Onken, disc golf course creator, at Eden Park to discuss installation and purchase of a 9-hole course. He also reported attending New Director Training for County Conservation Directors in Iowa and it was very valuable. He is also working in the shop more to help Tanner with preparation for winter.
- 9. Maintenance Update:** Hollingsworth reported that work has been done on winter weather prep – shutting off water and pumps, truck prep, salt spreader prep. Hollingsworth and Ewart have decided that they will do the maintenance on the skid steer themselves. They’ve completed the fire refresher and pack test making Hollingsworth an official wildland firefighter. Work will continue on fire brakes and trail maintenance.
- 10. EE Update:** Amie Herrick (Director, MS Library) reached out with an idea of doing a story walk installation on the Hoover Nature Trail at Morning Sun. No plans have been made other than me approaching the Board with the idea and get the go ahead to meet with Amie and Jacob to discuss what the timeline would be, funding (through the library), and needs for both sides. Board agrees to have Lana set meeting with Amie. Carver Trust grant application through TRCF for the prairie outdoor classroom shelter at the Wetland Interpretive Trail. If we hear about CFLC funding before Nov 15th, I’ll submit the application at that deadline. If we don’t, I’m going to wait until the April deadline so that we have the additional funding leverage to show Carver.



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I submitted a \$3,000 grant request to Schlutz Foundation for concrete and beach work at Langwood to continue our drive to make the area more accessible with a bonus of continuing to help with standing water control around the lodge.

Sarah is completing the DNR Fish Habitat Grant for bank stabilization and habitat development at Virginia Grove – due at the end of Nov.

Final designs submitted to Pannier Graphics for the interpretive sign project at Wilson’s Prairie. Proofs will be sent and we anticipate delivery of completed signs by the end of the year.

I’m working on the interpretive panels for the overlook at Chinkapin with a goal to get those submitted to IPI by the end of the month. This will be paid for by the CJ United Fund and remaining \$ will go to building the benches to complete the overlook.

130 people attended the Halloween Trick or Treat at the Campground plus at least 20 individuals camped to help make the event a success. The campers are excited for next year and ideas were being discussed during the event.

Sarah and I will be attending Fall IAN Professional Development Workshop in Tama County this week.

We are planning a “donate what you want” book sale for December because we’ve got a hallway full of unused field guides and other assorted books that have been collected over the years. They haven’t been used in years and are just taking up space. Donations will go to EE Animal Care.

11. Fish Habitat Grant Resolution: Artz-McComb presented the Board with a resolution required for LCC to submit a Fish Habitat Grant through the Iowa DNR for work at the Virginia Grove pond. The Board read through the resolution. Hardin motioned to pass the resolution. Schantz seconded. Motion passed, all ayes.

12. Carver Foundation Grant Resolution: Artz-McComb reports that a resolution is not needed. No action.

13. Fair Labor Standards Act Exempt Employee Status: Ewart reports that, beginning Jan 1, the two Naturalists will change from exempt to non-exempt status due to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Discussion of the definitions of exempt vs non-exempt was held and Artz-McComb updated the Board on what they currently do. Ewart presented the Board with the policy draft written in conjunction with Artz-McComb indicating that the other option was to raise the Naturalist salaries to keep them in the exempt bracket. The Board decided that they will vote on the policy at the December meeting.

Ewart spoke to the Board regarding the vacant Board seat that would be up in January 2025. Without a decision on the pending litigation regarding the current vacant board seat, no action will be taken.

Adjournment: Schantz motions to adjourn the meeting, Hardin seconded. Motion passed with all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm at the Louisa County Complex.

Chair

Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved

Chair – Shawn Maine

Vice-chair – Joellen Schantz

Secretary/Treasurer – Elizabeth Kling

LOUISA COUNTY
CONSERVATION



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*Louisa County Bylaws regarding voting by the Chair/Acting Chair:

According to Article II, number 2.4 of the Louisa County Conservation Board Bylaws, "At all meetings that a full quorum is present, the board chair does not vote except to break a tie. In a three-member quorum, all persons present cast a vote."