



Louisa County Conservation Board – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Louisa County Conservation Board met in regular session on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Langwood Education Center

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

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

Public Present: Jim Rudisill

Meeting Called to Order: at 3:21 pm by Schantz

- 1. Agenda Approval:** Kling motioned to approve the agenda, Hardin seconds. Motion passed all ayes.
- 2. Audience Consideration:** Rudisill discussed the HWY 61 DOT meeting and asked that the Board consider discussing options with the DOT to consider design work for a trail connection to Wapello (under viaducts, via frontage road etc). Could help the county and city with trail development plans for the future but it has to be considered now.

Ewart asked the Board about the bidding process for surplus equipment and confirmed that anyone who submits a sealed bid can come to the November bid and potentially up their bid. Board agreed, yes. Ewart will make sure the ad goes in the paper.

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

4. Director update: I have been re-doing some budget sheets getting a good handle on accounts and line items. Should make coming budget season smoother. The naturalists have been doing FANTASTIC at getting the Wilson prairie signs up and going – install late fall or early spring. Nov 4 meeting will be 30 days past posting equip in the newspapers – confirmed. Received the cameras, got them going and connected, should be installed very soon. Tanner went to new employee school AND fire classes (passed), we went to E-commerce (new website drops “nov”) and I am going to new director school. Tanner will work on pesticide and CDL fall/winter. Going to meet disc golf installer for Eden.

Vermeer Skidsteer - send in to shop to do a once-over? Hardin and Schantz ask Ewart to check in on the cost for a once over and then proceed under Director discretion.

5. Maintenance Report: Hollingsworth reports that Baird Timber, Chinkapin and Cairo Blinds have been cleaned up for hunting season. Pump at Indian Slough has been turned on. Cameras have been installed at Chinkapin. Langwood water filter installation is complete. LCC received a grant for \$1,000 for fire supplies. The 6 month seasonal, Luke, will be done in two weeks.

Discussion regarding purchasing and installing new lights to replaced those that were removed by vandals at Chinkapin. Board says to go ahead and purchase/install new lights now that we have cameras.

6. Environmental Education Update: Following last meeting, wrote and sent a letter to the TB neighbors addressing their concerns and personally inviting them to meet with me when I’m out there doing winter prep...two different date options or to call and set up a time to meet me. United Fund of Columbus Junction Grant - \$835 to finish overlook at CB – Interp panels and a bench or two. Troop 2553 from CJ donated 4 giant magnetic Monarch life cycle kits to LCC.



Board Members

Joellen Schantz
Vacant
Josh Hardin
Shawn Maine
Elizabeth Kling

Submitted three grants through CFLC – one for Iowa Habitat Education, one for Accessibility Improvements and one for TRCF for a shelter at Langwood out by the Wetland Trail. The next Carver Foundation round is due mid-Feb. Wrote, designed, and finished the Wilson’s Prairie interpretive panels for the Orion signage project. Full swing for Fall Field Trips. Halloween at the Campground is coming up. Joellen is assisting at a fishing station. Louisa County Conservation is now 100% on MyCountyParks.com and the URL now directs visitors to the site. In case anyone asks you about it - There will be a slight learning curve as Google figures out the change. Specific Google searches may still bring up the old website and it will seem “broken” but that’s just because Google hasn’t learned to give the MCP.com result instead.

7. Hoover Nature Trail Land Sales Update: Public hearing will be 10/15 during the regular Board of Supervisors meeting. Specifically checked with Brad Quigley about LCC needing to hold a public hearing and he said no.

8. Approval for Replacement of Langwood Well Pump: Background – 1st issue was iron bacteria and shocking treatment happened. Problems still existed and water contained small plastic shards. After talking with Brockhouse, Ewart reported that the pump impeller was imploding, not turning off, and constantly sending small shards into the system. Pressure tank is also a concern. Ewart provided the Board with 3 bids for pump and pressure tank work from Brockhouse, Latta, and Gingerich. Hardin motioned to accept the bid from Brockhouse. Seconded by Kling. Motion passed, all ayes.

9. Approval of Memorial Donations Policy: All board members read the new memorial donations policy. Hardin motioned to approve. Second by Kling. Motion passed, all ayes.

10. Annual Report Approval: Ewart provided copies to the Board after last meeting. Ewart asked for any suggestions or revisions. Hardin had none. Kling had none. Schantz has some questions to address at some point, things to think about for the future. Hardin motioned to approve the annual report. Kling Seconds, motion passed. All Ayes.

Adjournment: Hardin motions to adjourn the meeting, Kling seconded. Motion passed with all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, November 4, 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 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.”