

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:

Carolyn Buckingham, President
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin
Connie Mutel
Bill Waldie

STAFF MEMBERS:

Brad Freidhof, Interim Director
Dory Kjosa, Office Manager
Dave Gustafson, Asst. Op. Supt.
Charlie Bray, Ranger II

OTHER STAFF:

Ryan Maas, Asst. County Attorney
Rachel Zimmermann Smith, County Attorney
Ines Beltre, HR
Lisa Green-Douglass, BOS (ZOOM)

President Carolyn Buckingham called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin to approve the Johnson County Conservation Board Regular Meeting minutes of November 19, 2024. Second by Connie Mutel with a unanimous vote.

Bills:

Motion was made by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin to approve department 24 bills in the amount of \$42,018.38, department 32 in the amount of \$7,000.00, department 35 ARPA F.W. Kent Park Shower House Site Improvement Phase 1 in the amount of \$53,970.52, department 40 in the amount of \$1,050.83, department 44 in the amount of \$4,579.90, department 82 in the amount of \$1,216.72, and department 83 in the amount of \$2,760.00. Second by Connie Mutel with a unanimous vote.

Directors Report:

Acting Director Brad Freidhof reviewed staff activities and financial reports.

Discussion by Public:

Gene & Connie Zdrazil, Carter Johnson, Jacqueline Juett, Deb Quade & Karin Kee were present. No discussion.

Business:

1. Discussion/Action – Recognition of Gene Zdrazil for 7 years of service on the JCCB.

Discussion only.

2. Motion was made by Bill Waldie at 5:57 pm to go into closed session per 21.5(1)(c) Code of Iowa to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure is likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Second by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a roll call vote: Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye; Mutel, aye; Waldie, aye.

The board came back into open session at 6:28pm.

3. Discussion/Action – MOU with Amy Hansen for summer camp at Kent Park.

Discussion only.

4. Discussion/Action – Letter from Conservation Board requesting position on the UI Committee tasked with review of the MNRA.

Discussion only.

5. Discussion/Action – Conservation Director job description review and update, including but not limited to consideration of present leadership, organizational structure, and possible adjustments.

Discussion only.

6. Discussion/Action – Hiring process for Conservation Director, including but not limited to action plan and tentative timeline.

Discussion only.

7. Final budget presentation for FY 2026.

Discussion only.

8. Discussion/Action – Sponsorship of the Economic Impact of Cycling & Trails led by the Iowa Bicycle Coalition.

Motion was made by Connie Mutel to sponsor the Economic Impact of Cycling & Trails. Second by Bill Waldie with a unanimous vote.

9. Discussion/Action – Capital Projects 5-year Plan update.

Discussion only.

10. Motion was made by Connie Mutel to go into closed session at 8:01 pm regarding potential purchase of particular real estate per 21.5(1)(j) Code of Iowa to discuss purchase of particular real estate where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property. Seconded by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a roll-call vote as follows: Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye; Waldie, aye; Mutel, aye.

The board came back into open session at 8:16 pm.

Announcements/Correspondence:

The Conservation Department offices will be closed December 24 & 25, January 1 & 20.

Conservation Budget Presentation, Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 9 am – 12 pm.

Next Regular of the Conservation Board – Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 5:30 pm – Johnson County Administration Building, Room 120.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm

The above minutes were read and approved by the Johnson County Conservation Board the 21st day of January 2025.

Signature on File
Carolyn Buckingham, President

Signature on File
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Secretary