

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bill Waldie, President
Carolyn Buckingham, Vice Pres. (Zoom)
Connie Mutel
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin (Zoom)
Zac Hall

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

OTHER STAFF:

Ryan Maas, County Attorney
Ines Beltre, Human Resources
Lindsay Jones, Human Resources
Lisa Green-Douglass, BOS

President Bill Waldie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Zac Hall to approve the Johnson County Conservation Board Special Meeting minutes of January 14, 2025. Second by Connie Mutel with a unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Connie Mutel to approve the Johnson County Conservation Board Regular Meeting minutes of January 21, 2025. Seconded by Zac Hall with a unanimous vote.

Bills:

Motion was made by Zac Hall to approve department 24 bills in the amount of \$37,693.54, department 32 REAP in the amount of \$900.00, department 35 ARPA F.W. Kent Park Shower House Site Improvement Phase 1 in the amount of \$1,350.00, department 40 in the amount of \$1,039.48, department 82 in the amount of \$98,271.00. Second by Carolyn Buckingham with a unanimous vote.

Business:

7. Motion was made by Zac Hall at 5:40 p.m. to enter into closed session, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i), to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

a. Review of candidates for the position of Conservation Director
Second by Connie Mutel with a roll call vote as follows: Mutel, aye; Hall, aye; Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye; Waldie, aye.

The board came back into open session at 5:49 p.m.

8. Motion was made by Connie Mutel at 5:51 p.m. to go into a non-public Exempt Session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.9 to discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of non-union employees of Johnson County Conservation. Second by Carolyn Buckingham with a roll call vote as follows: Hall, aye; Mutel, aye; Waldie, aye; Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye.

The Board came back into open session at 6:04 p.m.

9. Discussion/Action – appoint/hire Conservation Director

Motion was made by Carolyn Buckingham to extend the offer of the position of Conservation Director to Brad Freidhof at the salary discussed, with an official start date of February 24, 2025. Second by Connie Mutel with a roll call vote as follows: Mutel, aye; Hall, aye; Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye; Waldie, aye.

4. Discussion/Action – Custodian position

Motion was made by Connie Mutel to approve the Custodian position being upgraded to a Field Worker I position to account for other job duties not outlined in the Custodian position. Second by Zac Hall with a unanimous vote.

Directors Report:

Interim Director Brad Freidhof reviewed staff activities and financial reports.

Discussion by Public:

No public present.

Business:

1. Discussion/Action – Review of meeting with Iowa City regarding collaborative opportunities and 2024 Conservation Bond.

Discussion only.

2. Discussion/Action – Implementation of an on-line reservation and instant pay system for campgrounds.

Discussion only.

3. Discussion/Action – UI MacBride Nature Recreation Area.

Discussion only.

5. Discussion/Action – Stanley Agreement for construction engineering for Clear Creek Trail project.

Motion was made by Zac Hall to authorize the Director to sign the agreement with Stanley for construction engineering for Clear Creek Trail. Seconded by Carolyn Buckingham with unanimous vote.

6. Discussion/Action – Potential job corps opportunities with Iowa City and funding from donation

Discussion only.

10. Motion was made by Connie Mutel to go into closed session at 7:57 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 Zac Hall with a rollcall vote as follows: Waldie, aye; Buckingham, aye; Hall, aye; Mutel, aye.

The board came back into open session at 8:22 pm

Motion was made by Carolyn Buckingham to authorize the director to do a survey and appraisal on the 2nd property discussed in closed session. Second by Connie Mutel with a unanimous vote.

Announcements/Correspondence:

A Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, 5:30 pm – Johnson County Administration Building, Room 120.

Next Regular of the Conservation Board – Tuesday, March 18th, 2025, 5:30 pm – Johnson County Administration Building, Room 120.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The above minutes were read and approved by the Johnson County Conservation Board on the 18th day of March 2025.

Signature on File
Bill Waldie, President

Signature on File
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Secretary