

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bill Waldie, President
Carolyn Buckingham, Vice Pres.
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin
Zac Hall

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

OTHER STAFF:

Ryan Maas, County Attorney
Lisa Green-Douglass, BOS

President Bill Waldie called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Carolyn Buckingham to approve the Johnson County Conservation Board Special Meeting minutes of March 11, 2025. Second by Zac Hall with a unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Zac Hall to approve the Johnson County Conservation Board Regular Meeting minutes of March 18, 2025. Seconded by Carolyn Buckingham with a unanimous vote.

Bills:

Motion was made by Carolyn Buckingham to approve department 24 bills in the amount of \$27,875.93, department 35 ARPA F.W. Kent Park Shower House Site Improvement Phase 1 in the amount of \$2,247.00, department 40 in the amount of \$739.48, department 44 in the amount of \$13,268.39, department 82 in the amount of \$8,010.05, and department 83 in the amount of \$200,330.86. Second by Zac Hall with a unanimous vote.

Directors Report:

Director Brad Freidhof reviewed staff activities and financial reports.

Discussion by Public:

Karin Kee spoke about the Clear Creek Trail. Margaret Reihman spoke of her support for the Director. Alexandra Carver introduced herself.

Business:

1. Discussion/Action – Dave Wehde, Natural Resource Manager with 39 years of service to Johnson County Conservation will share some observations and changes he has seen during his tenure.

Discussion only.

2. Discussion/Action – Results of Iowa Bicycle Coalition Economic Impact of Cycling and Trails in Iowa – Luke Hoffman, Executive Director of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition.

Discussion only.

5. Discussion/Action - Review and approval of Operations Superintendent job description and classification.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the job description and classification.

3. Discussion/Action – Reschedule May 20, 2025, regular conservation board meeting due to conflict with Robin Wall Kimmer Special Presentation at The Englert Theater.

Motion was made by Carolyn Buckingham to move the May meeting to Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Second by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a unanimous vote.

4. Discussion/Action – Approve Certificate of Completion and Final Acceptance of Agreement of Work for the Preliminary Engineering of the Clear Creek Trail Extension to F.W. Kent Park and authorize the director to complete the project closeout and funding associated with TAP-U-C052(124)-81-52 grant.

Motion was made by Zac Hall to approve the Certificate of Completion and Final Acceptance of Agreement of Work for the Preliminary Engineering of the Clear Creek Trail Extension to F.W. Kent Park and authorize the Director to complete the project closeout and funding associated with TAP-U-C052(124)-81-52 grant. Second by Carolyn Buckingham with unanimous vote.

6. Discussion/Action – Update on campground openings, new reservation system for shelters and some campsites at Hills Access, and the cashless camping that will be used at Hills Access.

Discussion only.

7. Discussion/Action – Closed Session – Litigation and Confidential Records. Motion was made by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin at 7:48 pm to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 21.5(1)(a), to review or discuss records which are authorized by state law to be kept confidential (work product and/or attorney-client privileged communications), and 21.5(1)(c), to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the government body in that litigation. Second by Carolyn Buckingham with a roll call vote as follows: Waldie, aye; Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye; Hall, aye.

Board came back into open session at 8:24 pm

8. Motion was made by Carolyn Buckingham to approve the 3 documents discussed in closed session pending a 48-hour review period. Second by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a roll call vote as follows: Waldie, aye; Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye. Zac Hall abstained from the vote.

The board took a break from 8:25 – 8:30 pm.

9. Discussion/Action – Closed session – Purchase or sale of particular real estate. Motion was made by Carolyn Buckingham to go in to closed session at 8:30 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. Second by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a roll call vote as follows: Waldie, aye; Buckingham, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye; Hall, aye.

The Board came back into open session at 8:56 pm.

10. The consensus of the board was to have the director continue discussions on the 3rd property discussed.

Announcements/Correspondence:

Next Regular of the Conservation Board – Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 5:30 pm – F.W. Kent Park, Conservation Education Center – 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford, IA.

BOS Earth Day proclamation – April 17 at 9 am.

City of Hills Songbird Sanctuary Park Dedication – April 22 at 10 am.

BOS Bike Month Proclamation with trail focus – May 1 at 9 am.

40th Annual Prairie Preview at Iowa Memorial Union International Ballroom – May 14 at 4:30 – 7 pm.

Robin Wall Kimmer Special Presentation at The Englert Theater on May 20.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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

Signature on File
Bill Waldie, President

Signature on File
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Secretary