

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
AND THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2025

JCCB Members:

Bill Waldie, President
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Secretary
Zac Hall
Connie Mutel

JCCB Staff:

Brad Freidhof, Director
Jeremy Rieck, Nat. Resource Manager
Dory Kjos, Office Mgr.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Jon Green, Chairperson
Rod Sullivan
Mandi Remington
Lisa Green-Douglass

Chairperson Green called the Joint Meeting to order in the Johnson County Health and Human Services Building Boardroom at 3:00 p.m. Johnson County Board of Supervisors present: Jon Green, Lisa Green-Douglass, Mandi Remington, and Rod Sullivan; absent: V Fixmer-Oraiz. Johnson County Conservation Board members present: Zac Hall, Connie Mutel (arrived at 3:04 p.m.), Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Bill Waldie; absent: Carolyn Buckingham.

Green sought unanimous consent to approve the agenda as presented. There were no objections.

Public Comment - No one from the public spoke.

Iowa Water Quality Network Update Director of the University of Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research (IIHR)—Hydroscience and Engineering Larry Weber presented an update on the Iowa Water Quality Network. He said the Iowa Nutrient Research Center, which had funded IIHR's statewide water-quality sensor network, ended its support in FY23, and bridge funding from the Walton Family Foundation will sustain the network through July 2026. Weber reviewed the network's 10-plus years of data collection, its history and equipment, the Iowa Water Quality Information System (IWQIS), applied research, work in the Middle Iowa Watershed, and a potential NASA partnership involving drinking water utilities. He emphasized that the network is a statewide resource that ideally should be funded by the State of Iowa, though that has not yet occurred. Weber reported that Johnson County has two or three sensors, with additional sensors upstream in the watershed benefiting the County. He explained that Polk County's recent \$200,000 contribution was based on an estimated statewide need of \$600,000, divided among the three largest counties relying on surface water—Polk, Linn, and Johnson—and noted that Polk County expressed interest in a multi-year proposal but made no firm commitment. Board members thanked Weber for the presentation. Green asked if the County should consider a leadership role by budgeting around \$200,000 in FY27 and whether the

Conservation Board could assist. Waldie said bond funds are ineligible, but other funding options will be explored. Green-Douglass suggested reaching out to other jurisdictions. Sullivan said it is premature to commit before FY27 revenue numbers are known. Green noted \$200,000 in a single year is likely unfeasible but could serve as bridge funding and suggested a 28E agreement with counties and cities to reduce annual contributions while showing collective support. Weber added that sensors removed due to funding gaps cannot be redeployed. Mutel asked about potential federal support; Weber said it is uncertain but possible given renewed interest, such as the NASA water-quality forecasting proposal. Weber noted Linn County Conservation intends to use bond funding to purchase equipment for the program. He noted that the Linn County Board of Supervisors is evaluating a \$200,000 funding request, which would be reduced by approximately \$40,000 Linn County already contributes for different water-resources research. County Conservation Director Brad Freidhof noted the 2010 creation of Iowa's Natural Resources and Joint Meeting Minutes November 17, 2025 / page 2 of 2 Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, which has never been funded; future tax reform could generate about \$200 million annually, though bridge funding is still needed. Green-Douglass said the County cannot rely on this source. Waldie asked about individual sponsorship of sensors; Weber confirmed it is possible. Green emphasized appreciation for the work, noting that water quality is difficult to address without proper measurement, and said the County will continue exploring sustainable support options.

Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Attest: Julie Persons, Auditor

Recorded by Auditors Office: Marly Melsh, Executive Clerk to the Board

The above minutes were read and approved by the Johnson County Conservation Board the 16th day of December, 2025.

Signature on File

Bill Waldie, President

Signature on File

Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Secretary