JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:
Bill Waldie (ZOOM)
Zac Hall
Carolyn Buckingham
Connie Mutel

STAFF MEMBERS:
Brad Freidhof
Dory Kjosa
Ed Kringle
Dave Gustafson

Others present:
Ryan Maas, Asst. County Attorney

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

Minutes:

Motion was made by Connie Mutel to approve the Johnson County Conservation Board Regular Meeting minutes of September 22, 2026. Second by Zoe Hall with a unanimous vote.

Bills:

Motion was made by Bill Waldie to approve Fund 01 - General Basic bills in the amount of $40,209.51, Fund 06 - Technology in the amount of $826.60, Fund 21 - TRUST in the amount of $33,171.81 and Fund 22 - BOND in the amount of $990,102.35. Second by Connie Mutel with a unanimous vote.

Directors Report:

Director Brad Freidhof reviewed staff activities and financial reports.

Discussion by Public:

Carter Johnson of Iowa City, Seth Zimmermann of Solon, and Macie Masteller of The Daily Iowan were present.

Business:

1. Discussion/ Action - Al Policy review and consideration for approval

   Motion was made by Zac Hall to approve the Al Policy. Second by Connie Mutel with a role call vote as follows: Buckingham, aye; Mutel, aye; Hall, aye; Waldie, aye.

2. Discussion/Action - NWTF Grant Award

   Discussion only.

3. Discussion/ Action - Resolution setting forth Statement of the Board regarding the contributions of Larry Gullett (Case No. EQCV085928)

   Motion was made by Connie Mutel to adopt a Resolution Setting Forth Statement of the Johnson County Conservation Board Regarding the Contributions of Larry Gullett. Second by Zac Hall with a roll call vote as follows: Buckingham, aye; Hall, aye; Mutel, aye; Waldie, aye; Winslow-Garvin was absent.

4. Discussion/ Action - Director Evaluation Process

   Motion was made by Connie Mutel to adopt the County's Standard Department Head evaluation form. Second by Bill Waldie with a unanimous vote.

5. Discussion/Action -Shoemaker Holland Proposal (560th Street West of Sand Road)

   Motion was made by Zac Hall to approve the Shoemaker Holland Proposal. Second by Connie Mutel with a unanimous vote.

6. Discussion/ Action - USFWS Partnership

   Discussion only.

7. Discussion/Action - Hiring Updates

   Discussion only.

8. Motion was made by Bill Waldie at 6:50 pm to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j), to discuss the 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 Zac Hall with a roll call vote as follows: Buckingham, aye; Waldie, aye; Mutel, aye; Hall, aye.

The board came back into open session at 7:12 pm.

Announcements/Correspondence:

Next Regular of the Conservation Board - Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 5:30 pm - Johnson County Administration Building - Room 120 - the Chris Edwards Conference Room, 913 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The above minutes were read and approved by the Johnson County Conservation Board on the 17th day of November 2026.

Signature on File
Carolyn Buckingham, President

Signature on File
Bill Waldie, Secretary

RESOLUTION CB# 6-10-20-26-91

RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH STATEMENT OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LARRY GULLETT

WHEREAS, the parties have resolved the litigation in Johnson County District Court Case No. EQCV085928, and, in fulfillment of its commitments under the settlement agreement, the Board hereby adopts the following statement recognizing Larry Gullett's lasting conservation legacy in Johnson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Johnson County Conservation Board that:

The Johnson County Conservation Board acknowledges the conservation legacy of Larry Gullett, who served as Director of the Johnson County Conservation Department from 2013 until 2024.

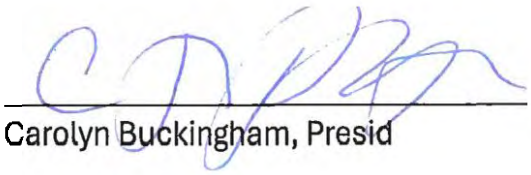
During Larry's tenure as Director, the conservation landscape in Johnson County improved in tangible and lasting ways. Today, there is more land publicly accessible for outdoor recreation and more natural resources under active protection and stewardship than when he arrived. These advancements enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to Johnson County.

The Board recognizes Larry's contributions to the conservation mission in Johnson County. The work accomplished during his years of service will continue to benefit this community for generations to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be hereby read into the minutes of this meeting of the Board and duly made a public record as part of its proceedings.

On motion by Connie Mutel, seconded by Zac Hall,the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Johnson County Conservation Board on October 20, 2026.

Waldie, aye; Buckingham, aye; Mutel, aye; Winslow-Garvin, aye; Hall, aye.



Carolyn Buckingham, Presid

Johnson County Conservation Board