

12635 County Rd G56, Suite 101
Wapello, IA 52653
P: 319.523.8381
conservation@louisacountyia.gov

LOUISA COUNTY
CONSERVATION



Board Members
Joellen Schantz
Sam Willson
Josh Hardin
Shawn Maine
Elizabeth Kling

Louisa County Conservation Board - Regular Meeting Minutes

The Louisa County Conservation Board met in regular session on May 4, 2026 at 3:00 pm at the Louisa County Complex

Board Present: Josh Hardin, Joellen Schantz, Sam Willson, Elizabeth Kling and Shawn Maine

Staff Present: Jacob Ewart, Lana Artz-McComb, Tanner Hollingsworth

Public Present: Jim Rudisill

Meeting called to order: at 3:00 by Maine

1. **Agenda Approval** – Hardin motioned to approve the agenda, Willson seconded. Motion passed all ayes.
2. **Audience Consideration** – Rudisill may comment on Agenda Item #9
3. **Consent Agenda** – Willson motioned to approve consent agenda, seconded by Hardin. Motion passed all ayes
4. **Environmental Education Update** – Spring field trip season is in full swing with three weeks to go! Summer Camps are full. We've scheduled weekly programs at every library throughout June and July with the exception of the week of July 4 and the week of the County Fair. I'm excited to be able to provide this alternative to camp since our camps filled so quickly this year. Ethan Brown, Wapello, approached LCC about an Eagle Scout Project. Pending approval from the BSA Council, he will be installing the storybook walk panels at Chinkapin Bluffs for our partnership with the MS and CJ libraries. He will also be installing the pedestal for 1 of the 4 panels at the CB overlook.
5. **Maintenance Update** – Shop work has started. Burning at Wilson, Langwood, Indian Slough. Water is on at all areas, testing pending. Road rock has been delivered to Snively pads, Cairo, Virginia Grove, Langwood, Flaming Prairie. Snively bathroom remodel will be finished soon. Hollingsworth presented the board with power rake options for consideration.
6. **Director Update** – Confirm – nothing in the NAWCA grant should inhibit what can legally be done at Indian Slough. Sienna sale will be in FY27 (unless they deliver the new one in the next couple weeks). Fish habitat is done (looks great). We've been holding back spending money to make sure we were going to make it to the end of the year, but we're going to buy the things we've been putting off - 7-8k of rock - Shop roof and friends
Langwood ropes course coming down
7. **Approve Expenses for Shop Improvements** – Board wants to see quotes for additional work. Will hold a special meeting for that.
8. **Policy Section Addition: Compensation for Employees** - LCCB Seasonals
 - No raises right now
 - Would like to move to raises every year they work here, increase of \$0.25



- \$12.00 → \$14.00
- No BOS raise, but would like to re-evaluate every 3rd year.
- Effects in FY 26
 - o We have enough money to cover the raise(s) this year
- Effects in FY 27
 - o In order to adjust higher wages, we all agreed we could have them for a shorter time. (a true 3 months)
 - We don't usually get them for may 1 – may 15th
 - We can always extend in the future if we need it back
 - o The difference is almost nothing. (\$400) total for all seasonals all year
 - o Average for like counties is 14.17...
- PLUS... the 0.25 raise if you come back. Effective May 15th (so budgeting will be weird, but not impossible)
- Should make people want to work and stay
 - o Higher quality workers as well
- Relatively no impact to budget, and low (if any) impact to the work season.

Hardin motions to approve Policy Section 2.3 Other Employees as written. Schantz seconds.
Motion passed all ayes.

9. **Trails Master Plan Review** – Ewart found the 53 page Master Plan written by the Trails Council in 2012. The last meeting of the Trails Council was in 2023ish and only Schantz, Kling, and Kathy Vance attended. Schantz indicated lack of interest from public.

Ewart reported on County owned parts of the Master Plan – specifically the Hoover Nature Trail. Talked about the area specifically between the end of Chinkapin and NE of Wapello. Kling remembers letters being sent to landowners regarding farming on county property. Willson remembers it being the Morning Sun area not this area.

Ewart will reach out to landowners regarding farming and boundary lines.

Board also looked at the Morning Sun Section specifically South out of Morning Sun – Lihs property and the handshake agreement to use the trail but mow the depot. Schantz requests, at minimum, a written agreement with Lihs. Kling thought something had been written down. Schantz also requests something in writing with Heaters and Butlers.

Ewart will reach out to everyone and move forward.

12635 County Rd G56, Suite 101
Wapello, IA 52653
P: 319.523.8381
conservation@louisacountyia.gov

LOUISA COUNTY
CONSERVATION



Board Members
Joellen Schantz
Sam Willson
Josh Hardin
Shawn Maine
Elizabeth Kling

Additional items – Maine reports that the State passed the property tax reform....extending two additional years before the 2% cap.

Hardin would still like to look at revenue vs expenses for Flaming Prairie and potential seasonal dates allowing for more hunting and fishing at the area.

10. Next regular meeting: June 1, 2026, 3:00 pm, Snively Campground

11. Adjournment 4:32 pm Hardin motions, Schantz seconds, motion passed all ayes.

Chair

Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved

Chair – Shawn Maine

Vice-chair – Josh Hardin

Secretary/Treasurer – Elizabeth Kling

*Louisa County Bylaws regarding voting by the Chair/Acting Chair:

According to Article II, number 2.4 of the Louisa County Conservation Board Bylaws, "At all meetings that a full quorum is present, the board chair does not vote except to break a tie. In a three-member quorum, all persons present cast a vote."