

12635 County Rd G56, Suite 101
Wapello, IA 52653
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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 Monday, November 3, 2025 at 3:00 pm at the Conservation Office

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

Staff Present: Jacob Ewart, Tanner Hollingsworth

Public Present: Jim Rudisill, Bill Small

Meeting called to order: at 3:00 by Maine

1. **Agenda Approval** – Kling motioned to approve the agenda, Shantz seconded. Motion passed all ayes.
2. **Audience Consideration** – none
3. **Consent Agenda** – Wilson motioned to approve, Hardin seconded. Motion passed all ayes
4. **Environmental Education Update** – Ewart reported on Artz-McComb's behalf: Successful Halloween Hike with ~150 in attendance. Special thanks goes out to the campers who went above and beyond with their campsite decoration. Jo handled the hot dog/marshmallow and registration station while Morning Sun 6th graders helped facilitate some of the other EE activities. The campers said they are already looking forward to next year! Amanda and Lana have scheduled winter public programming including winter nature camp, two bird counts, wreath making, and programs at retirement homes. They will be meeting with the Louisa County Librarians in November to discuss future partnerships in 2026 including the US's 250th birthday special activities. Classroom programming ramps up in November with the remaining two field trips before a break in Dec/Jan. Lana will be writing a grant to the Schlutz foundation for the remaining interpretive signs at Chinkapin Bluffs overlook. Maine asked who "Mighty Oaks" was from the report of programs, and it was reported that it was the newly created homeschool collective near Morning Sun.
5. **Maintenance Update** – Hollingsworth reported the crew pulled docks at Snively and Langwood and that porta-potties are picked up at all properties except Langwood, which is normal. They replaced a main breaker at Snively Campground, helped TNC with a burn, cleaned up a down mulberry tree at Virginia Grove, had repairs done on the skidsteer, and had a work day with representatives of Orion Renewable Energy Group to clear the Wilson Prairie of Elm and other woody species.
6. **Director Update** – Ewart asked the board if they had any ideas for next FY as he is starting budgeting, and to send those to him. Discussion about landscape rakes and their abilities to bring rock up. The sealed bids for equipment will be on next agenda because the timing for posting didn't work out with the newspapers, he signed a purchase agreement with John Deere for a mower, with delivery expected in April. No news on the shop roof, except for a couple texts saying that Conservation was next on the list, and the skidsteer repair came in slightly under the quoted amount. Additionally, Ewart reported about a new House file that requires newly elected officials and appointed members to take a 1-2 hour training if they are appointed or elected after

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July 1, 2025. This doesn't apply to our current members, since they weren't appointed AFTER, July 2025. But anyone looking to reapply would need to take this course.

7. **Next regular meeting: December 1, 3:00 pm, Louisa County Complex (kitchen area to make room for bidding)**
8. **Adjournment 5:18 pm** Willson motions, Hardin seconds, motion passed all ayes.

Chair

Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved

Chair – Shawn Maine

Vice-chair – Joellen Schantz

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."