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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, January 12, 2026 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, Lana Artz-McComb, Tanner Hollingsworth

Public Present: Jim Rudisill

Meeting called to order: at 3:05 by Maine

1. **Agenda Approval** – Hardin motioned to approve the agenda, Willson seconded. Motion passed all ayes.

2. **Officer Election** – discussion noting that the bylaws do not clearly define the word “term” as it relates to the length that a Board Member can serve as an officer.

Hardin motioned for Shawn Maine to continue in the role of Chair. Schantz seconded. Motion passed, 3 ayes with Kling as a nay.

Schantz motioned for Josh Hardin to take the role of Vice Chair. Kling seconded. Motion passed all ayes.

Hardin motioned for Elizabeth Kling to continue in the role of Secretary/Treasurer. Willson seconded. Motion passed all ayes.

3. **Audience Consideration** – Rudisill says that there is a classic conflict of interest having a Supervisor sitting on a volunteer inferior board. The Board of Supervisors is the superior board to the Conservation Board. The State of Iowa says it's legal but it's a moral and ethical conflict of interest. Kling acknowledges that it does take a spot from a citizen who could be voting and agrees it's a conflict of interest. Main doesn't have a problem if the Supervisors want to change the role to an Advisory position but notes that making the Supervisor chair would make sure they show up to the meeting. Rudisill counters that it's not LCCB's responsibility to make sure the Supervisor shows up to the meeting. Maine thanks Rudisill for his comments.

4. **Consent Agenda** – Schantz motioned to approve, Hardin seconded. Motion passed all ayes

5. **Environmental Education Update** – December's holiday public programming were popular – wreath making, winter crafts, and noon year's eve. I picked up the frame and post for 1 of the CB overlook interp panels from Tony Wellington. We will install this after the thaw. Hopefully we will be hearing from the Schlutz Foundation about the funding for the remaining 3 frames/posts. I've been working on a deep clean and reorganization of the EE storage spaces.
Amanda submitted a proposal for a display on our programming at the Winter ICEC Iowa Conservation Education Coalition. The proposal was accepted so we will be represented in the displays at the ICEC Winter Conference in Feb. Amanda and I will also be attending the Kirkwood Parks and Nat. Resources Job Fair on Feb 13. We are excited to report that we've established regular programming with 3 non-school organizations – monthly programming at Colonial

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Manors in CJ and Motts Dayhab in Wapello. Quarterly-ish programming with Mighty Oaks Homeschool Collective in Morning Sun. EE will have 1 returning seasonal – Brelynn Randall coming back for her 3rd summer. We have posted the 2nd seasonal position as of 1/8.

6. **Maintenance Update** – Working on scheduled maintenance of all vehicles with Stallman. Major tree removal around the bathrooms at Snively so that they can be mowed around. Downed trees will be split for firewood. Hollingsworth reported on furnace issues at both Toolesboro and Langwood. Toolesboro was an igniter. Langwood was more complex and required Minnis to remove the heat exchanger. The issue was acorns again. Hollingsworth reports that he will try to figure out a solution to prevent mice bringing acorns into the furnace. No update on shop roof with Ewart saying he will continue to call asking for start date.
7. **Director Update** – Josh does not need to complete the IPIB course. Adam parson vs ipib and he deferred to them. Their website says re-appointment does not trigger the training. Show board member term updates – will open again 7/2027 to fill Sam if no action has been taken by then. Staff meeting today - Need to call DOT about the Eden Park signage on HWY 92. The brown signs were replaced with smaller green signs. Error needs to be corrected. Did some burn prep planning. Budget was “approved” with no necessary changes, but not approved officially. 4% is what we were told we could expect, but don’t guarantee. No information to share about the ropes incident. Ewart has been working on bylaws and rules/regulations/policy. Will look into getting employee reviews done as well as scheduling mine with the board
8. **Rules/Regulations/Policy Updates**- Ewart reports that the LCC Rules/Regs/Policy/Bylaws are messy and antiquated. He has been deep diving into all of them. His plan is to take a year and go over these in small sections at each meeting to clean them all up.

The first to be reviewed were the Board Bylaws. The Board compared the existing Bylaws vs Ewart’s Draft line by line with discussion for each.

9. **Next regular meeting: February 9, 3:00 pm, Louisa County Complex**

10. **Adjournment 3:40 pm** Kling motions, Willson 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.”