



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

Board Members
Joellen Schantz
Vacant
Josh Hardin
Shawn Maine
Elizabeth Kling

Louisa County Conservation Board - Regular Meeting Agenda

The Louisa County Conservation Board met in regular session on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm
at Louisa County Office Complex.

Board Present: Josh Hardin, Joellen Schantz, and Shawn Maine

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

Public Present: Scot Hunt (LCC Supervisor Elect), Kevin Hardin (LCC Supervisor Elect)

Meeting called to order: at 3:07 by Maine

1. **Agenda Approval** – Hardin motioned to approve the agenda, Schantz seconded. Motion passed all ayes.
2. **Audience Consideration** – none. Ewart thanked the incoming Supervisors for attending
3. **Consent Agenda** – Schantz motioned to approve, Hardin seconded. Motion passed all ayes
4. **Hoover Nature Trail Land Sales Update** - Maine reported that the BOS was unable to proceed with the sale at the last BOS meeting because of a paperwork delay. Maine told the landowners that they would be contacted when the sale was on the agenda again to avoid a wasted trip. Ewart will make sure Maine has the landowner contact information.
5. **Fair Labor Standards Act Exempt Employee Status** – Ewart presented LCC's plan to the BOS, addressed questions they had about banking hours (it's taken care of in LCC's plan...no more than 120 hrs, rolling, can be banked with LCC staff minimizing comp hours whenever possible). Board approval is not required, written guidelines are complete.
6. **Memorial Swing at Chinkapin Bluffs** – Fuller family would like to donate a memorial swing for placement near the shelter. Maine requests that Ewart check for swing option from the company who makes the memorial benches. Schantz wants Board approval for design choices. Ewart agrees and will find a standard memorial swing option for this and future memorial requests.
7. **Louisa County Conservation Board Member** – Ewart presented a written documentation from Adam Parsons that the 5th LCC Board Member position will be vacant and able to be filled as of January 1, 2025. Board reviewed the application and agreed to take out the M/F/Other question because a gender balanced board is no longer a requirement. Ewart asked if the Board would like applications sent to them to provide a recommendation to the BOS. Hardin and Schantz said no and that they trust the BOS to make the decision as the elected officials. Hardin is ok if Ewart meets with candidates. Main will keep Ewart in the loop and BOS will have him look over applications. Board will not be involved.
Ewart will post the Board Member application on Facebook, Newspaper, County Website, LCC Website.
8. **Director Update** – none.
9. **Maintenance Update** – Hollingsworth presented that the skid steer maintenance is complete, work has been done at CB to widen trails and remove invasive species, mostly finished with the



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bridge at LW with help from the Boy Scouts. Ewart and Hollingsworth met with the frisbee golf team at Eden to plan the 9 hole course. Next steps are a timber burn.

10. **Environmental Education Update** Grants Received –Louisa County Conservation received \$6876.92 for Accessibility Improvements at Langwood, \$3306.41 for Iowa Habitat Education from CFLC. \$3000 from Schlutz Foundation for Accessibility Improvements at Langwood

\$7500 to Tri-Rivers from CFLC for Prairie Outdoor Classroom Shelter at Langwood – Tri-Rivers will be adding an additional \$2,500 to bring their total up to \$10000. We will be writing a grant for the Carver Foundation for the remaining project amount.

Sarah finished and submitted the Iowa DNR fish habitat for \$17000 to the District V regional committee for work on the pond at Virginia Grove. The project includes fish habitat construction and armoring of the dam including hauling and placement of rock plus a solar aeration system.

MyCountyParks estimates launch by the end of December

Wreath Making, Noon Years Eve, Christmas Bird Count, and Winter Nature Camp all coming up (see newsletter, let me know if you'd like to attend)

11. **FY26 Budget** Ewart went through the preliminary FY26 budget, line by line, to let the Board know what his plan is. Maine reminds everyone that it's a process and the BOS has to wait to see the full county-wide picture. Nothing can be done yet.

12. **Next regular meeting: Monday, January 6, 2025 Location: Louisa County Office Complex**

13. **Adjournment 4:20 pm.** Schantz 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."