

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 Agenda**

The Louisa County Conservation Board met in regular session on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 3:00 pm  
at Louisa County Office Complex.

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

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

**Public Present:** Jim Rudisill, Bill Small

**Meeting called to order:** at 3:00 by Maine

1. **Agenda Approval** – Hardin motioned to approve the agenda, Schantz seconded. Motion passed all ayes.
2. **Audience Consideration** – none
3. **Consent Agenda** – Willson motioned to approve, Schantz seconded. Motion passed all ayes
4. **New Board Member Update** – Sam Willson has returned to the Board to serve the remainder of his term (2 years) until otherwise noted.
5. **Environmental Education Update** –

Ongoing/Upcoming projects for Spring 2025

- Wilson Interp Signage – final approval given
- Chinkapin Bluffs Signage – final edits within LCC
- Working with CCSD Biology students and Tessa Pugh to landscape the school courtyard into an outdoor classroom space with native species. Samuel Hollingsworth will be our consultant and funding will come from SWCD.
- Carver Grant submission through TriRivers to supplement the CFLC grant for full funding of the prairie outdoor classroom shelter at the Langwood Interpretive Trail
- Digital Planetarium coming from Great Plains AEA and Sarah and I will be doing two weeks of astronomy/night sky programming at schools and libraries

Prepping for Spring Field Trip Season and Planning Summer Camps

6. **Maintenance Update** – skidsteer work at Eden, Chinkapin Bluffs, Wilson Prairie, and LM school. Vehicle maintenance including 4 new tires on the dump truck. Work on the Maebus fence will be paused until the ground thaws and dries up a bit. Firewood has been restocked for the year at Langwood. Chimney cap has been installed at Chinkapin Bluffs shelter.
7. **Director Update** – Accessibility permits need to be redone due to asking questions that are not allowed. Ewart will work with Adam Parsons on language with the thought being to utilizing the existing structure of the DNR permits. Noted that LCC can control where vehicles can be used (ie: high erosion areas).  
Chad Hayes asked to meet with Ewart regarding his land lease at Indian Slough. Hayes explained



that he overbid and asked the Board to consider a reduction from \$240 to \$200 an acre on the 47 acres. Hayes has a 3 year lease. The Board's consensus is that Hayes bid using the sealed bid processes and the lease will remain as is.

8. **Memorial Tree Donation** – Emmy Fuller would like to donate a white oak to replace the oak that was lost near the shelter at Chinkapin Bluffs in memory of her father. No plaque is needed. Hardin motions to approve the memorial tree donation, Schantz seconded. Motion passed, all ayes
9. **FY26 Budget** – Ewart reported on his budget meeting with the Supervisors. Supervisors indicated that LCC should not replace the vacant technician position and should return with a budget \$40k less than presented. Ewart indicated that the total cost of an employee is more than \$40K so the Board will be able to add the additional money (\$31,752.16) back in to the budget. Supervisors also wanted a budget line item added for mowing and plowing at the complex/courthouse. Mowing is approximately \$7k, plowing is approximately \$500.

Ewart presented several small ideas that totaled the required amount including an increase in motor vehicle and equipment maintenance, Langwood maintenance, park maintenance plus additional tools needed at the shop, water softeners at Langwood, rock budget increase, logbooks at some areas etc. Ewart also presented one big need, a new roof at the shop, that would use up the entire additional money.

The Board decided to move on the multiple small ideas because a contractor inspection of the shop is needed before a decision on the roof can be made.

Schantz indicated that a contractor should look at the shop roof and siding and, if needed, the Board can consider using Reserve funds. Ewart will get a quote for the roof and a quote for the siding.

Hardin motioned to approve the new budget total of \$580,937.04. Willson seconded the motion. Motion passed, all ayes

**10. Next regular meeting: Monday, February 3, 2025 Location: Louisa County Office Complex**

**11. Adjournment 4:05 pm.** Hardin motions, Schantz 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:

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

*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."*