

# Clinton County Conservation Board

## Meeting Minutes

April 21st, 2025  
and Via Zoom

### **Welcome & Introductions:**

The regular meeting of the Clinton County Conservation Board was called to order by Jeff Beckwith on April 21st at 6:00 pm.

**Board members present:** Gloria Friederichsen, Brian Grell, Brian Tugana, Jeff Beckwith and Karen Bradway via zoom.

**Guests:** Ally Weller

**Staff:** Philip Visser and Jessica Steines

**Agenda:** The Board approved the agenda

**Meeting Minutes:** Meeting minutes from March 17th, 2026, meeting was presented after discussion Gloria Friederichsen moved to approve the minutes with corrections minus section D corrections. Brian Grell seconded, motion carried 4-1 with Brian Tugana voting no.

**Financial/Treasurer's Report:** Review of current budget report and upcoming expenses.

**Approval of Bills:** Bills were presented for Conservation, Gloria Friederichsen moved to approve the bills; Karen Bradway second, motion carried.

### **Department Report:**

**Administrative:** Phil discussed how he went through and created a table from MyCountyParks for the reservations and program attendance numbers.

**EE:** Naturalists have been busy with in-school programs and public programs. The Star Lab pop up programs went well.

The in-school programs have shifted to a lot of field trips. Spring Fling was this past weekend and was well attended, we stuffed a lot of eggs getting ready for it. The EE Educational trailer is completed and the Trivia night out at Rock Creek for the Friends of Rock Creek.

Natural Resources: It is burning season and Darin had a controlled burn yesterday at Lost Nation and at McAndrews, he is planning another one tomorrow as well. Everyone helps with these controlled burns, and it can go into long days, and staff ends up receiving comp time for that. Darin Voss is the lead of the burns, and he is very good at it and is very cautious using great judgement with weather conditions and knowing which fields work with the wind to safely burn.

East and West Districts: Mowing has started and will continue into October. We have some seasonal workers that have been hired, a few concessions positions that have started and the maintenance employees that will be starting in the next couple of weeks. We have a couple not starting until the end of May.

Both sides are working on getting the water on at the campgrounds, this year we switched from Culligan to Kirby Water Conditioning for softeners and iron curtains. In the past we had issues with bacteria at the Eden Valley Nature Center and have since had an injection pump installed at the request of the Iowa DNR. This injection pump does require daily testing of the water chlorine levels.

The campgrounds are all open now, however we are dealing with high water. We have the lower loop closed at Sherman Park for flooding. Walnut Grove is open, but the water is at the edge but is starting to go back down. Rock Creek lower loop is closed, and the electrical posts were pulled.

### **New Business:**

- a) Conservation Maintenance Position Promotion – Phil and Ally discussed the job titles of 2 employees needing a change with the Conservation Board. The current band that they are in is A12 as Maintenance Technicians and will be moving to B21 with a new title of Maintenance Worker 2. Historically they signed job descriptions with duties equivalent to Maintenance Worker 2. Phil will be taking this to the Board of Supervisors on April 27<sup>th</sup> and will be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- b) Eden Valley Wi-Fi Proposal – Phil received a proposal from F & B Communications for the addition of Wi-Fi at Eden Valley Campground. It will be located on the roof of the shower building and with cost \$75/month.

The Conservation Board asked about options for Rock Creek having Wi-Fi. Phil shared that the location is difficult due to not having fiber optics out that way, and the last time he checked into it, Windstream quoted \$225,000.00 for the project.

c) Invitation, Sharing, Master Conservationist Program, Follow-up, Coverage –

1. Dr. Brian Tugana extended an invitation to the Conservation board members to come out to his home and view his many species of flowers.
2. Dr. Brian Tugana purchased five copies of the book "The History of Nature" for all the board members to have as a gift. Only two arrived from amazon on time, he will bring the others at the next meeting.
3. Dr. Brian Tugana is a Master Conservationist; he took the program in 2021. The program offers videos and field trips. Dr. Brian Tugana contacted the Director of the program and asked permission of the use of the videos for viewing purposes, if the board is interested, he can send you a link for viewing.
4. Dr. Brian Tugana spoke with a couple of bird experts and was given recommendations on bird vocalization instruments that can be moved around. There was also discussion about different apps like Merlin ID for identifying the bird to the sounds.

**Old Business:**

a) FY2026 Spring Budget Amendment – Phil let the Conservation Board know that the budget amendment to the LACI Fund is not going to be needed.

b) FY2026 Building Maintenance Projects –

1. Replacing two cabin roofs at Rock Creek – These are the last of the cabins at Rock Creek that need new roofs. Jeff Beckwith quoted \$7623 for both replacements. Brian Grell motioned to replace both cabin roofs, Karen Bradway seconded, motion carried. Jeff Beckwith abstained his vote.

There was discussion about the 2 cabins at Eden Valley needing roof replacement as well.

2. Joist Hangers on the Deck at Rock Creek – Jeff Beckwith shared with the conservation board the condition of about 50% of the joist hangers on the deck at Rock Creek Eco Center. There is a total of 840 joist hangers so 420 need to be replaced. The cost with labor included is \$39.00 per hanger. Jeff also suggested he sell the

Conservation Board the joist hangers and have the conservation staff do the replacement.

The Conservation Board decided to table until the next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Adjournment – Jeff Beckwith to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, May 19th, 2025 – 6pm - Location Grand Mound or via Zoom

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Jeff Beckwith, Chair

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Brian Grell, Secretary/Treasurer