

LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION



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Board Members

Joellen Schantz
Vacant
Josh Hardin
Shawn Maine
Elizabeth Kling

Louisa County Conservation Board - Special Meeting Minutes

The Louisa County Conservation Board met in special session on Tuesday, February 20, 2024; 1:00 pm at the Louisa County Complex.

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

Staff Present: Lana Artz-McComb, Dani Boysen, Noah Robb, and Jacob Ewart

Public Present: Jim Rudisill (press) via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order: at 1:00 pm by Maine

Agenda Approval: Motion by Hardin, Second by Schantz, Passed all ayes

Budget Revision Discussion: Maine provided a quick report in his role as Louisa County Supervisor. BOS requests no 10% raise though salary steps are still in operation. Looking at ~\$50,000 cuts per department and 1 staff reduction. Discussion moved to the Director position. LCC is required by Iowa Code to have a Director. Due to hiring freeze, LCC will have a working Director and leave a position open as staff reduction. Final personnel decision will be made at the March meeting with all Board present. Artz-McComb will contact Paul Greufe to have him contact the two outside applicants for the Director position to inform them of the hiring freeze.

Board raised concerns about getting line items and dollar amounts back in future FYs after all of these cuts needed for FY25. There is no information on when budgets may be able to be built back up. Depends on what happens.

Discussion of budget amendments. More information will be provided during a Department Head meeting on Friday.

Discussion of seasonal hiring as related to changes in the budget. Able to maintain hiring 3 seasonal maintenance positions due to cuts in other line items. Mowing and park maintenance has to be a priority. Artz-McComb mentioned that individuals had reached out asking about the possibility of helping with mowing on a volunteer basis. Not needed currently but Schantz asked Artz-McComb to reach out to Horak Insurance regarding details of volunteers either mowing or using machinery (chainsaws etc.) because it has come up in the past.

Paying Chinkapin Bluff Shelter Improvements which will be received soon: Motion made by Schantz to move 100% of the Reserve Trails fund from the sale of the portions of the HNT for the purpose of paying Evolve for the improvements of the Chinkapin Bluffs Shelter and Restrooms. The Reserve Trails fund line item will remain open. Second by Hardin. Passed all ayes.

Budget Revision Approval: Motion by Schantz, Second by Hardin, Passed all ayes

****Note:** per 3-4-24 meeting - Hardin made note that the Board made an error during the special meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20. There were 3 board members present, 1 absent, 1 vacant. Only 2 board members voted on the budget approval. All 3 board members present should have voted per quorum rules. A note will be made in the minutes from that meeting and a budget approval vote was made 3-4-24.

Adjournment: Motion by Schantz, second by Hardin. Passed all ayes. 1:55 pm

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.”