

# LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION



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## **Board Members**

Joellen Schantz  
Vacant  
Josh Hardin  
Shawn Maine  
Elizabeth Kling

## **Louisa County Conservation Board – Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Louisa County Conservation Board met on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 3:00 pm at the Louisa County Complex.

**Board Present:** Josh Hardin, Joellen Schantz, Elizabeth Kling, and Shawn Maine

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

**Public Present:** Jim Rudisill, Randy Schlutz, Mike Reid, Michael Heller

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 3:00 pm by Maine

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

**Consent Agenda:** 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 will be made tonight. With those changes, Hardin motioned to approve the consent agenda, Kling second, passed all ayes

**Honey Creek Mitigation Bank:** Michael Heller presented on the Honey Creek Mitigation Bank being established by Sandy Creek LLC south of Wapello, west of HWY 61, near the Bethel Church. Sandy Creek LLC is required to have an organization hold the land in easement for the 10-12 years that the mitigation bank will be active. Heller presented on the goals for the property and answered board and audience questions regarding mitigation banks, easement wording, and the logistics going forward. Reis, a neighbor of the property, expressed his support for stream restoration work on the property but he does not want public access to the area. Currently the only decision needed is if LCC wants to hold the easement at no cost to LCC. Sandy Creek LLC will control access to the land until the bank is complete. The decision will be put on the agenda for April 1.

**Interim Director Report:** Artz-McComb has been working on organization of files and understanding where LCC is at on various projects. Work revolved around the LCC Reserve Account and the inability to find a comprehensive list of transfers in to Reserve from Revenue and payments out of Reserve for earmarked projects. She has approached Selena but didn't receive what was needed, she will meet with Selena on Wednesday. Schantz mentioned that she may be able to pull reports through secondary roads so she will try on Tuesday to see if she can alleviate some of Selena's workload. Artz-McComb also did a live interview with WQAD regarding the Indian Slough MSIM report.

**Maintenance Report:** Robb reported meeting with Gretchen at Virginia Grove to discuss the ruts left from the timber harvest. Agreed that Ceasar will be coming back to fill in the ruts left behind in the playground area. They've been working on forest reserve surveys, clearing brush, clearing storm damage. Limbs fell on and damaged the restroom at Flaming Prairie – may be turning it in for insurance. Ewart, Robb, Martinez, and Boysen all got certified as Iowa Hunter Education Instructors.

**Snively Lease Contract Report:** Artz-McComb reported on the Snively Campground Lease Renewal. See included document detailing the changes in enforcement of the USACE Contract. Hardin directed Artz-McComb to reach out to the DNR to discuss that LCC does not want to pay back USACE revenue from Snively that above any expenses spent at Snively.

**Indian Slough Survey Update:** Artz-McComb reported that French-Reneker has not communicated further regarding the stoppage of the survey at Indian Slough. Hardin (echoed by Kling and Schantz) expressed the displeasure that the Supervisors should not have stopped the survey because it was a Board decision. Maine indicated that it was an emergency decision made with Artz-McComb because the work was supposed to start the day immediately following the hiring freeze and budget issues.

**FY 25 Budget:** The Board updated Kling on the budget changes made during the special meeting from Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the final budget discussion and approval. As indicated in the consent agenda, the Board will be voting on the FY 25 Budget Approval. Schantz made a motion to approve, Hardin second. Passed all ayes.

**Director Position Moving Forward:** Discussion on job descriptions moving forward. Noted that staff will make note of how their day to day jobs change based on a 5 person staff with a working director. Staff and Board expressed concern with getting the position back in the future. Schantz asked Ewart if he had any questions about how his role as working director would work. Discussion turned to details surrounding Ewart's promotion to Director. Hardin motioned to promote Ewart to Director at the salary of \$60,000 effective today, carrying on his years of service, with 2 weeks of vacation at his hiring anniversary in July. Artz-McComb to overlap with Ewart at her Interim Director salary until April 30<sup>th</sup>. Kling second. Passed, all ayes.

**Next Regular Meeting: Monday, April 1, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area Shelter with drive to River Forks Access after meeting (weather permitting). Zoom will not be an option.**

**Adjournment:** Hardin Motioned to Adjourn, Schantz second, passed all ayes

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Date Approved

*Chair – Shawn Maine*

*Vice-chair – Joellen Schantz*

*Secretary/Treasurer – Elizabeth Kling*