



# CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION

Promote the health and general welfare of the people; to model and encourage preservation, conservation, education and recreation through responsible use and appreciation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

**April 8, 2025**

## **BOARD MEETING**

**2pm Osborne Welcome Center**

Chair Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Members present included Larry Stone, Dave Asche, and Gary Kregel. Director Jenna Pollock and Office Manager Molly Scherf were also present. Guest in attendance was Jeff Hillers of Millville.

Stone made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Kregel made a motion to approve March 2025 minutes, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Kregel made a motion to pay the claims and Stone seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

The board reviewed the monthly report provided by the Auditor's Office.

### **New Business**

1. Public Hearing for Motor Mill Stabilization Project:

A public hearing was opened to discuss the repair of the limestone piers in the Motor Mill. Notice has been given to bidders and the public. No public comment was heard. Chairman closed the public hearing.

2. Consider Awarding Contract for Motor Mill Stabilization Project:

Shive Hattery put together the bid documents. Three bids were received.

- a. Steege Construction submitted bid for \$68,543
- b. E&H Restoration submitted bid for \$76,849
- c. T&T Tuckpointing submitted bid for \$125,650

Shive Hattery engineer reported all bids met the requirements and recommended the board proceed and accept bid from Steege Construction. Kregel made a motion to accept the bid from Steege Construction and Stone seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed. Motor Mill Foundation has done fundraising to cover this project.

3. Consider Historic Resource Development Program Application Support and Financial Commitment:

Mallory Hanson of TRRC will write this grant on our behalf. The ask will be for \$50,000 to be used on the next phase of the Motor Mill pier project and the Motor Mill Foundation will provide the match if awarded.

Stone made a motion to approve the application seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Consider Bloody Run Easement Conditions:**

Pollock is waiting to receive a letter from Eric Gamm explaining what his wishes are for the easement.

### **2. Project updates:**

a. Pony Hollow Trail: Pollock heard back from the DNR and they are not going to allow the trail on the wetland property but it can be right on the property line. Ryan Wicks, engineer from Fehr Graham, will walk the route and survey. He expressed thoughts that it would be more of a cost savings to run trail along the DOT ROW in that section vs. the bluff-side. Pollock explained the bluff-side is what the board prefers. City of Elkader has signed off allowing all work to begin.

b. Osborne Campground: Ray's Excavating has been on site this week bringing in fill to help areas that washed out. He will also reseed as well as place fabric on the steep slope as instructed in the design. April 23rd will be the site visit with Destination Iowa. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the grand opening event.

**Upcoming Programs/Events** available at [www.claytoncountyconservation.org](http://www.claytoncountyconservation.org)

## **Director's Report/Updates/Communications**

Welcome Center numbers included 126 individuals and 27 groups in March.

Env. Edu. Numbers for the past month included 67 presentations to 114 groups, 1949 youth and 477 adults, 77.75 hours

Kent Gourly – emailed request to consider allowing a long-range (1000 yd) gun range at the archery course. Pollock spoke to our insurance about this. Insurance company recommend avoiding mixing conflicting uses and since we don't allow hunting in the Osborne Park this would be a conflict with people hiking, disc golf, archery course, etc. The board agreed this could be a potential hazard to guests to the park. Pollock will contact Gourly.

Jeff Hillers – requested we consider sharing the fence expense at Becker West north property line. Hillers was in attendance at this meeting and presented the board with maps of location showing the 450 ft of fence line he would like the county to pay for and the remaining 1300 he will cover. He has spoken to Pat Schafers at NRCS and is aware of an EQUIP funding that could be used next year for this project which would pay about \$3/ft. Pollock has spoken to the auditor to discuss where funding would be taken from for this and she was depending on the cost it may not be from conservation funds. Pollock will discuss options with NRCS on the EQUIP and if conservation is eligible for this as well as landowner.

Kregel made a motion to pay for the 450 ft of fencing and surveying the line since permanent fencing will be placed and split the survey costs with the landowner. Stone seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Casper/Clark Families-- met with staff to discuss returning a rendezvous to Motor Mill September '25, '26. The families would like to do an event that would attract people to the park. They discontinued doing this in past due to insurance costs. Pollock spoke to the county insurance and they recommend any activity on county property should carry their own coverage. Pollock recommends having them instead participate in the next Heritage Days as demonstrators, the board agrees. This also brought to light that we need to update the wedding policy to show renters need proof of a 1 day event policy.

Chris Grau – expressed the value of Volga Pines timber and wanted that relayed to the board. Asche went out to the property and agrees there are some quality walnuts and pine on the site. The board discussed future economic value of the property and Asche recommended removing the competition trees to allow understory walnut to establish.

### **Closed Session**

Director Evaluation

Kregel made a motion to go into closed session for 21.5(i) allowed by Iowa Code. Stone seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Kregel made a motion to close the session. Stone seconded. All voted in favor.

### **Adjournment**

Kregel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

**Next meeting scheduled:** May 13, 2025