



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.

June 10, 2025

BOARD MEETING

2pm at Osborne Archery Shelter

President Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm. Members present were Dave Asche, Kris Lau, Gary Kregel, and Larry Stone. Director Jenna Van Meeteren and Office Manager Molly Scherf were also present.

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

Stone made a motion to approve May 2025 minutes, seconded by Lau. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

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

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

New Business

1. Certify FY2026 Wage Verifications:

Van Meeteren made some adjustments to the original wage increases for FY26. A deputy director position will be added (internal promotion) which was reason for the adjustment. Kregel made a motion to approve the 3rd page of the document Van Meeteren provided the board, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

2. Consider Deputy Director Description for internal posting:

This position would be a promotion for internal hiring. The deputy director would act on the director's behalf in their absence and whenever else needed. This position will include law enforcement with the hopes they will be enrolled this fall in the academy.

Stone made a motion to approve this position and their duties, seconded by Kregel. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

3. Review County Health Insurance Single/Family Plans:

Van Meeteren went over the changes to the health insurance plans for county employees. She will go to a meeting Thursday to review alternative options for the next year.

4. Consider Amended Scope of Services Agreement with Fehr Graham for Pony Hollow Trail:

This additional scope of work is due to all the changes in alignment, engineering adjustments and professional services of the trail that have exceeded the original agreement. This will be \$171,812 on top of the initial scope of work previously paid.

The potential of in-kind services on the trail project by John Moyna were discussed during a zoom meeting between Scott Flagg of DOT, Ryan Wicks of Fehr Graham, Van Meeteren, and Scherf. The challenge is Moyna is the landowner, wants to do in-kind work to keep the

project much lower than the \$8 million estimate, and also wants the ability to bid on the project. We have \$2.5 million to spend on the construction of this project with the federal funds.

Lau made a motion to allow the director to sign the scope of service as long as we get DOT approval to have project move forward with the in-kind work and by the landowner and he's allowed to bid on the project. This was seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

5. Consider Driftless Adventure Race Request, Joy Spring Checkpoint Oct. 1-6, 2025:
Frank Johnson with EWALU will be putting on this adventure race and would like to use an area in Joy Springs for a checkpoint. Landsgard is curious what the county insurance would think about it and Van Meeteren agreed to check on that.
Kregel made a motion to approve allowing the checkpoint at Joy Spring if insurance is ok with it, Lau seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Discuss Iowa Forest Resiliency Partnership Program – Clayton Co. Objectives:
This program is under review by the state so may be a delay in application and awarding. Asche discussed the plan for the archery course area. The TSI would involve removing honey suckle, and undesirable trees through cutting and burning sections. This should not disturb the trails to the archery targets. Asche also suggested allowing firewood permits to remove the larger trees that are dropped prior to the burn.
2. Consider Approval of Rental Agreement and Event Contract:
The board reviewed the updated document with the additions from the county insurance. Kregel made a motion to approve the rental agreement and event contract, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
3. Authorize Chair and Secretary to Sign Bloody Run Easement:
Eric Gamm has agreed to the easement and has signed it. Needs to now have Landsgard and Stone signatures with a notary and then be recorded.
Kregel made a motion to approve, seconded by Lau. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Upcoming Programs/Events available at www.claytoncountyconservation.org

Director's Report/Updates/Communications

Welcome Center numbers included 932 individuals and 146 groups in May.

Env. Edu. Numbers for the past month included 193 presentations to 1142 youth and 292 adults, 80.25 hours

Van Meeteren discussed the issue of visitors to Osborne riding bikes in the animal exhibit and leaving bikes in front of doorways. It was agreed at the staff meeting to prohibit bikes in the animal exhibit due to safety concerns and to find a bike rack to place near end of sidewalk for parking. The board agreed this was a good decision.

The Clayton County side x side club would like to come to the next meeting. Van Meeteren will extend an offer to them to attend the July meeting.

The seasonals were approached by someone in Mederville while trimming the river access. The individual was upset that UTV's were using the historic bridge as a crossing. This is not a bridge conservation maintains. Van Meeteren passed this on to the supervisors as well as secondary roads. County Engineer is concerned with liability and passing bridge inspection. Supervisor, Ray Peterson, feels conservation could handle maintaining this as a "trail". The board agreed with Van Meeteren that this is a secondary roads issue.

Adjournment

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

Next meeting scheduled: July 8, 2025