



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.

July 8, 2025
BOARD MEETING
2pm at Motor Mill

President Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Members present were Dave Asche, Kris Lau, and Gary Kregel. Director Jenna Van Meeteren, Deputy Director Ean Popenhagen, and Office Manager Molly Scherf were also present. Visitors Liz Jaster, Jamie Hollencamp, and Melissa Wilker from the Clayton County SxS club were recognized.

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

Lau made a motion to approve June 2025 minutes, seconded by Asche. 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. Clayton County SxS Club Presentation:
Club members gave an overview of what their group is about. They are a 501c3 club with paid membership and hold insurance for their events. Events are typically held on private grounds with permission/lease from landowners. They bring tourism dollars to the county with hotels, food, gas purchases. They promote our campgrounds and parks on their trail maps. They stressed that this club is a good steward of our areas by cleaning up trash left by others.
2. Board Tour of the Mill Stabilization Effort & Update on Funding:
The board viewed the completed pier stabilization. Van Meeteren answered all the questions of the board members about the structure.
3. Oath of Office – Deputy Director, Ean Popenhagen:
Popenhagen performed the oath of office in front of the board. He has been accepted into the academy that runs Sept 2-Dec 19.
4. Update of Public and Non-Profit Partnerships:
Van Meeteren discussed how county employees and any non-profit volunteers need to keep the work separate. County employees cannot work for foundation events/programs. This is especially important to keep the foundation's non-profit status.
5. Discuss FY25 year-end balance and anticipated costs for FY26:
REAP and Reserve accounts had much less spent out of them than planned mostly due to the delay in Pony Hollow Trail extension. \$39,011.62 will be returned to the General fund

(tax dollars). An additional \$23,000 was brought in for revenue with bulk of this being the CCED salary reimbursement.

FY26 unexpected expenses will be Popenhagen academy, food, and uniform fees.

6. Consider HRDP Grant Contract recommendation:

Clayton County was awarded \$50,000 for Motor Mill basement pier project. If accepted there would be about 18 months to complete the project. The CCCB is concerned we wouldn't get project done in that time frame and also wonder if it is needed since pier could be fine with the more temporary structure that was just completed. Until a flood event happens it is unclear how it will hold up. The board tossed around a few different ideas from accepting the money but returning if it wasn't needed, asking if it could be used strictly for engineering, asking how long of an extension they would offer so all funds could be secured.

Van Meeteren will contact the State Office and discuss these different options with them and reach back out to the board before the deadline.

7. Consider Letter of Support for REAP application

The Pony Hollow Trail project is \$140,000 short after a clerical mistake with Federal TA Set-aside grant funds. Van Meeteren contacted the City of Elkader about applying for the REAP grant for the portion of the trail that is within city limits. The city agreed to this.

Kregel made a motion to allow conservation to write a letter of support for the city's REAP application, Asche seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Kregel left the meeting at approximately 3:15pm.

Old Business

1. Discuss Iowa Forest Resiliency Partnership Program – Clayton Co. Objectives:

Asche is working on the plans. He still thinks it will be an October deadline.

Upcoming Programs/Events available at www.claytoncountyconservation.org

Director's Report/Updates/Communications

Welcome Center numbers included 589 individuals and 169 groups in June.

Env. Edu. Numbers for the past month included 18 presentations to 189 youth and 137 adults, 38.25 hours

Adjournment

Asche made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30, seconded by Lau. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Next meeting scheduled: August 12, 2025 at 8:30AM