



# 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.

**Sept 9, 2025**

## **BOARD MEETING**

**8:30 am at Osborne Welcome Center**

President Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. Members present were Dave Asche & Larry Stone. Gary Kregel entered late. Director Jenna Van Meeteren and Office Manager Molly Scherf were also present. Guest present was Chris Schoen from Motor Mill Foundation.

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

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

Stone 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. Consider County Website and Conservation's Page Details:  
Van Meeteren reviewed with the board the [www.claytoncountyia.gov](http://www.claytoncountyia.gov) website that has the conservation page. She went over the suggestions she had made to the designer for improvements and corrections.
2. Discuss Heritage Days 50<sup>th</sup> "End of an Era" Celebration:  
This year will be the last true Heritage Days. Due to lack of volunteers and historical exhibitors it was decided this would be the final year. Staff will work at rebranding a fall festival next year.
3. Review Director's Appointments and Roles on Various Boards:  
Van Meeteren presented the board with a document detailing the boards she is on to give them an idea of what someone in her position could expect.

## **Old Business**

1. Update on Motor Mill Stabilization:  
Stone had contacted engineer, Jake Shaw, to get another option on the stabilization of the basement pillars. Shaw made recommendations to pour a new concrete wall with anchors to hold the existing flowable material permanently. He also suggested protecting the remaining pillars with a concrete and mesh cover. Suggested a Geotech is needed for any plans made.  
Van Meeteren spoke to Origin Design via phone. They recommended speaking to contractors and Geotech first before getting an engineer involved. Need to know where the bedrock is solid before making any decisions.

Van Meeteren plans to reach out to other engineer firms and get more thoughts from them. She also reports that HRDP will want to meet about the grant funds when we have an engineer chosen but are willing to wait a short time until the best one is chosen.

2. Pony Hollow Trail Update:

Fehr Graham reported to Van Meeteren we are on track for a March letting. They are meeting with Environmental and Army Corp soon. Preliminary plans will be finalized soon. Two of the three landowner entry forms have been completed. Van Meeteren will reach out to the last landowner, doesn't see this will be an issue.

3. Discuss Additional Tree Planting Sites-Iowa Forest Resiliency Partnership Program:

- a. Elkader EWP- Approximately 20 acres on this site that could be machine planted into trees. It has been difficult to maintain as a prairie due to location and flooding/soil conditions.
- b. Becker East (north of Turkey River)- Approximately 11 acres not included in the crop contract that could be planted into trees.

Stone made a motion to authorize the director to continue the discussion of EWP and Becker East for this grant. Kregel seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

**Closed Session:** Kregel motioned to go into closed session 21.5I to discuss director's leave request, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Stone motioned to return to open session, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Kregel motioned to approve Van Meeteren's request for FML, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

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

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

Welcome Center numbers included 699 individuals and 222 groups in August.

Env. Edu. Numbers for the past month included 17 presentations to 213 youth and 152 adults, 24.75 hours.

Slocum met with some experts at the Osborne Pond to discuss the leaking and vegetation issues. The contractor that previously dredged the pond revealed that he had hit bedrock near the shelter side of the pond and often times that means you will have leaking. A couple suggestions were offered to possibly "fix" the leak but they are costly and likely not to work. There has been no fish kill yet so that isn't a concern at this time. Theresa Shea suggested some vegetative control to allow oxygen into the water. Slocum could do this but will need to add aquatic to his chemical spray license. Asche suggested asking the staff at Big Springs if they would be willing to do the spray this fall until Slocum is able to get licensed.

**Adjournment**

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

**Next meeting scheduled:** October 14, 2025 at 8:30AM