



# 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.

**March 10, 2026**

Board Minutes

Chairman Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 8:00am. Members present included Daryl Landsgard, Dave Asche, Gary Kregel, Larry Stone, Kris Lau, and Office Manager Molly Scherf.

Motion to move into Closed Session for an Interview by Kregel, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Roll Call – Kregel, aye; Lau, aye; Asche, aye; Stone, aye; Landsgard, aye.

Motion to close the closed session made by Kregel, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Executive Director Jenna Van Meeteren and Deputy Director Ean Popenhagen entered the meeting.

Lau motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor, agenda approved.

Kregel motioned to approve the February minutes with one spelling correction, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor, minutes approved.

Kregel motioned to approve the claims, seconded Lau. All voted in favor, claims approved.

The board reviewed the financial statement provided by the county auditor.

## **New Business**

1. Consider Director's Request to use accumulated time-off prior to June 30, 2026 --  
Van Meeteren intends to use her available vacation and sick time as well as maternity, so nothing is owed to her after June 30th.  
Kregel made a motion to approve the use of accumulated time, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
2. Consider appointment of Ean J. Popenhagen , Deputy Director to serve as Interim Director --  
Interim Director would be in place when Van Meeteren is absent for maternity leave.  
Stone made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor, motion carried.
3. Discuss Osborne Annual Event Recap --  
A virtual recap was held to review all the in-person meetings. Attendance for all four in-person meetings was very poor, mostly staff and board members for majority of the meetings. Overall, it seems like a more recreational theme is perhaps how the people that attended would like to see the event move towards.  
The board said the decision coming forward needs to come from the staff. They ask that a staff representative bring an outline of a plan to the April meeting. Popenhagen will set up a staff meeting to come up with ideas and an outline.

## **Old Business**

1. Discuss Neighboring Property --  
The Gordon property located across from the Osborne General Store is being cleaned out by the siblings. They have approached conservation about potentially purchasing the property. The

estate has quite a bit of debt so they aren't able to gift the property as they would wish to. Van Meeteren has spoken to one of the siblings but has not seen the interior of the property to see what kind of shape it is in. She will approach the BOS to see what they would be comfortable offering as a tear-down.

Kregel asked if some of the debt could be waived for gifting the property? Maybe a representative or county attorney could help with this? Van Meeteren will follow up with the attorney.

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

March 21 – Motor Motor 5k/10k – 10 Year Anniversary Trail Race

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

Welcome Center numbers included 52 individuals and 9 groups in February.

Env. Edu. Numbers for February included 60 presentations to 994 youth and 158 adults, 34.25 hours

10:00am – Interview, motion to go into Closed Session for interview made by Kregel, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor.

Roll Call – Kregel, aye; Lau, aye; Asche, aye; Stone, aye; Landsgard, aye.

Motion to close the closed session made by Kregel, seconded by Lau. All voted in favor.

11:15am – Interview, motion to go into Closed Session for interview made by Stone, seconded by Kregel. All voted in favor.

Roll Call – Kregel, aye; Lau, aye; Asche, aye; Stone, aye; Landsgard, aye.

Motion to close the closed session by Lau, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor.

Kregel made a motion to recess the meeting at 12:20pm and reconvene at 1:52pm, seconded by Stone. All voted in favor.

2:00pm – Interview, motion to go into Closed Session for interview made by Lau, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor.

Roll Call – Kregel, aye; Lau, aye; Asche, aye; Stone, aye; Landsgard, aye.

Kregel made a motion to close the closed session, seconded by Lau. All voted in favor.

Kregel made a motion to offer the Executive Director position to applicant Ean Popenhagen for a salary of \$60,000 with a 6-month evaluation and then increased to \$65,000. Seconded by Lau. All voted in favor.

**Meeting Adjourned: MOTION\_Lau, Second\_Asche\_ : Vote\_yes\_**

**Next meeting scheduled:** April 14, 2026