



# 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.

**May 5, 2026**

Board Minutes

Chairman Daryl Landsgard called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Members present included Daryl Landsgard, Dave Asche, Gary Kregel, Larry Stone, Kris Lau, Director Jenna Van Meeteren, Deputy Director Ean Popenhagen and Office Manager Molly Scherf. Guest present was Maeve Van Meeteren, daughter of the director.

Stone motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Lau. All voted in favor, agenda approved. Stone motioned to approve the April minutes, seconded by Asche. All voted in favor, minutes approved. Kregel motioned to approve the claims, seconded Stone. All voted in favor, claims approved. The board reviewed the financial statement provided by the county auditor.

## **New Business**

1. Consider Awarding Pony Hollow Trail Expansion TAP-R-CO22(99) -8T-22 --

One bid was submitted by C.J. Moyna and Sons for \$2,498,081.53. This is within our budget. Van Meeteren recommends awarding the contract to them with the resolution accompanying it.

Kregel made a motion to accept the bid from C.J. Moyna and Sons, seconded by Stone. Roll Call vote; Kregel, aye; Stone, aye; Lau, aye; Asche, aye; Landsgard, aye. All voted in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider approval to enter into inter-department county agreement between Clayton County Secondary Roads Department and the Clayton County Conservation Board for engineering staff services related to the construction of the Pony Hollow Trail Extension --

Van Meeteren, Popenhagen, and County Attorney Hermann have reviewed and approved this agreement.

Stone made a motion to accept the agreement between secondary roads and the CCCB for construction engineering of the Pony Hollow Trail Project, seconded by Lau. All voted in favor except Kregel who abstained from voting. Motion carried.

3. Discuss animal exhibit building storm damage --

Popenhagen informed the board of damage that happened to the fox/raccoon enclosure due to wind snapping off the top of a large tree. Hometown Insurance was contacted as well as ICAP. He was given permission to clean up the tree and the insurance adjuster will be coming this week to view in person. The fox and raccoon were not injured and have been moved to other enclosures that were empty. The USDA was informed of the incident and approved the animal move.

4. Discuss Clayton County Energy District/CCCB employee agreement for FY27 --

The original 2-year agreement between the Energy District board and the CCCB will be completed at the end of June. Popenhagen spoke with Energy District board member Joleen Jansen and she expressed there is no more funding at this time to come from their board. Van

Meeteren believes there is possible funding from the Community Foundation if the CCED can get a strategic plan moving forward.

Kregel's recommendation moving forward is to reduce the energy district roll and increase the conservation roll of the employee. The other board members agree pushing the employee to do more conservation work but continue with the energy education to the schools and public. Popenhagen will contact Jansen to discuss the board's decision.

5. Consider giving Popenhagen signing authorization for claims/utilities coming after today's meeting –

With this meeting being a week earlier than normal many of our bills for the month haven't arrived yet. Popenhagen will sign on behalf of the board for remainder of bills that arrive after the meeting date.

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

### **Old Business**

1. Discuss Dr. Connell property --

Popenhagen was curious about the board members' thoughts after the previous meeting with Dr. Connell. He provided assessed value numbers and CSR ratings on the parcels to the board to review. The feeling is that maintenance would be similar to the Becker properties where we mow a fire break. Most of the expense would be signing the property.

The board had mixed feelings. Some are in favor of accepting the land but others are still on the fence about it. They agreed to have the next meeting at Becker West and then travel to the nearby property to see it in person.

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

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

Welcome Center numbers included 405 individuals and 65 groups in April.

Env. Edu. Numbers for March included 63 presentations to 488 youth and 148 adults, 44 hours

### **Discussion –**

Asche brought up a DNR grant for planting landscape size trees in public areas like campgrounds using volunteers. He will share the info with Popenhagen.

**Meeting Adjourned: MOTION\_Kregel, Second\_Stone\_ : Vote\_yes\_**

**Next meeting scheduled:** June 9, 2026 - Becker West Property