

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:

Carolyn Buckingham, President
Bill Waldie, Vice President
Connie Mutel
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin
Gene Zdrazil

STAFF MEMBERS:

Brad Freidhof, Interim Director
Dory Kjosa, Office Manager
Dave Gustafson, Asst. Op. Supt.

OTHER STAFF:

Ryan Maas, County Attorney
Lisa Green-Douglass, BOS

President Carolyn Buckingham called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Bill Waldie to approve the Johnson County Conservation Board Regular Meeting minutes of September 24, 2024. Second by Connie Mutel with a unanimous vote. Motion was made by Connie Mutel to approve the Special Meeting minutes of October 7, 2024. Second by Gene Zdrazil with a unanimous vote.

Bills:

Motion was made by Gene Zdrazil to approve department 24 bills in the amount of \$26,236.44, department 35 ARPA F.W. Kent Park Shower House Site Improvement Phase 1 in the amount of \$380,052.03, department 40 in the amount of \$758.88, department 44 in the amount of \$18,154.04, department 82 in the amount of \$20,875.45, and department 83 in the amount of \$73,481.88. Second by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a unanimous vote.

Directors Report:

Interim Director Brad Freidhof reviewed staff activities and financial reports.

Discussion by Public:

William Blair introduced himself.

Business:

1. Discussion/Action – RES update on Pechman Creek Wetland Bank.

Nick Zaluzec from RES discussed options for the Wetland Bank.

Motion was made by Connie Mutel to authorize the Interim Director to work with RES to repackage the contract into a model that could get additional funding. Second by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a unanimous vote.

The board took a break from 7:17 pm – 7:22 pm.

2. Discussion/Action – Conservation Director job description review & update, including but not limited to consideration of present leadership, organizational structure, and possible adjustments.

Discussion only.

3. Discussion/Action – Hiring process for Conservation Director, including but not limited to action plan & tentative timeline.

Discussion only.

4. Discussion/Action – Memorial options for Larry Gullett who served as the Johnson County Conservation Director from 2013-2024.

Discussion only.

5. Discussion/Action – Iowa City Foreign Relations Council (ICFRC) opportunity to sponsor speaker Abraham Lustgratner, author of "On the Move," a book discussing the impacts of climate crisis caused population migration.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Interim Director to contact the Friends of Johnson County Conservation on behalf of Abraham Listgartern.

6. Possible closed session per 21.5(1)(g) Code of Iowa to avoid disclosure of specific law enforcement matters, such as current or proposed investigations or inspection or auditing techniques or schedules, which if disclosed would enable law violators to avoid detection.

No closed session.

7. Motion was made by Bill Waldie to go into closed session at 7:53 pm regarding potential purchase of particular real estate per 21.5(1)(j) Code of Iowa to discuss purchase of particular real estate where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property. Seconded by Bonnie Winslow-Garvin with a roll-call vote as follows: Buckingham aye, Winslow-Garvin: aye, Waldie aye, Zdrasil: aye, Mutel: aye.

Board came back into open session at 8:02 pm.

Announcements/Correspondence:

Next Regular of the Conservation Board – Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 5:30 pm – Johnson County Administration Building, Betty Sass Conference Room.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

The above minutes were read and approved by the Johnson County Conservation Board the 19th day of November 2024.

Signature on File
Carolyn Buckingham, President

Signature on File
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, Secretary