

MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Muscatine County Conservation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025 at the Environmental Learning Center. Chairperson, Julie Jindrich called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Members present: Julie Jindrich, Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman.

Members absent: Sherry Seright, Dakoatah Jacobs.

Also present: Katie Hammond, Lori Dietrich, Scott Sauer, Eric Furnas.

Meeting Minutes

Mike Schulte made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2025 meeting. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

Public Participation – None.

Special Events Applications

Applications were presented and discussed by the Board for approval for the Muscatine Triathlon - August 2, 2025. Friends of the Old Barn Events - May 17 and September 20, 2025. North Liberty Diventures - Deep Lakes Clean-Up – June 7, 2025 and the Scuba Adventures QCA, Inc. -Training on May 3 & 4, June 21 & 22, July 19 & 20, and August 16 & 17, 2025. All parties will submit Certificates of Liability insurance. Scuba Adventures QCA will be invoiced \$50.00 per day used. Karen Hartman made a motion to approve all four Special Events Permit applications. Mike Schulte seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich and Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

Update on Projects – Projects will be updated during the next discussions on the agenda..

Discussion and action on the Deep Lakes Park Campground

Katie Hammond gave information on change orders for the Campground Project.

Change Order #001 - for the 6 additional camp sites, concrete paving with asphalt aprons of all 22 sites, the additional roadway and design engineering at the DLP campground, that was approved at the last Board Meeting not to exceed the amount of \$332,522.50. The final actual price came in at \$303,127.40.

Change Order #002 - Removal of concrete spoils that were uncovered from proposed new road to subgrade in the amount of (up to) \$3,140.00. Paperwork to approve is not yet completed on change order #002 but will be soon.

Change Order #003 – Concrete pad for 3-phase power transformer, running electricity to the septic tank system and a septic alarm. Paperwork to approve is not yet completed on change order #003.

The Director asked for approval of the 3-Phase Electrical Service to the campground with Muscatine Power & Water, not to exceed \$50,000.00, but expected to be less and also to extend the contract with Bolton & Menk for the construction engineering estimated at \$50,000.00. Karen Hartman made a motion to approve the 3-Phase Electrical Service from Muscatine Power & Water for the estimated \$50,000.00 and to extend the construction engineering contract with Bolton & Menk estimated at \$50,000.00. Mike Schulte seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich and Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

Discussion and possible action on an agreement with Horizon Architecture to design the Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Building.

The Director gave information and the Board discussed a contract for professional services with Horizon Architecture for \$16,000.00 to do a feasibility and cost analysis for creating a maintenance shop in the bigger or smaller building at 2557 Pettibone Avenue, plus bidding and contract administration at \$145.00 per hour. Mike Schulte made a motion to approve the contract with Horizon Architecture for \$16,000.00, doing a feasibility and cost analysis for a maintenance building, plus bidding and contract administration at \$145.00 per hour. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich and Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

The Director gave the Environmental Education report, provided by Michelle Berns. 1959 kids & 399 adults, for a total of 2358 people were served during 117 programs since the last meeting.

The Director gave the Operations report, provided by Kent Kauffman. At Saulsbury, trucks were prepared for the controlled burns. Controlled burns were done at prairies and crop fields. Stump grinding in campground was done, holes were filled and reseeded. Green Ash trees were removed. The water was turned on at the campground and shower house and the campground at Saulsbury was opened for the season. Controlled prairie burns were done at Cedar Bluffs and Pike Run areas. Staff installed a gate at the beach parking lot and replaced some fence posts at Deep Lakes Park. In Discovery Park, the public restrooms were opened back up for the season and trees were trimmed.

Other Items from the Director

The pump in the basement will be replaced this Wednesday. The bee hives in Discovery Park will need new bees at the cost of \$179.00 or we could look into an inside-outside bee display for the Environmental Learning Center that would cost \$1,500.00. Karen Hartman suggested that we

might be able to get a donation of bees, but a permanent display would also be great. Online reservations for the lodge, cabins, shelters, and campsites have been going well. Beth Foor resigned as Cabin Custodian and Trinidad Martinez began his seasonal work last Monday. A request from an Iowa State Graduate Research Assistant to rent a cabin for one-night verses the required two-night stay was made. The Board suggested the Director could approved the one-night stay and going forward, take it case by case for requests like this.

Items from the Board – None.

Claims

Mike Schulte made a motion to approve all claims in the amount of \$13,837.59. Karen seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich and Karen Hartman. Voting nay: none.

Adjournment

Chairperson, Julie Jindrich adjourned the meeting at 6:41P.M.

Katie Hammond, Director

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