



MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

3300 Cedar Street P.O. Box 109 Muscatine, IA 52761 (563) 264-5922 email: conservation@muscatinecountyiowa.gov

December 15, 2025
Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Muscatine County Conservation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025 at the Environmental Learning Center. Chairperson Julie Jindrich called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Eric Furnas filled in for Director, Katie Hammond in her absence.

Members present: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Jeff Snyder, Sherry Seright, and Karen Hartman.

Members absent: Katie Hammond.

Also present: Eric Furnas, Lori Dietrich & Scott Sauer.

Meeting Minutes

Mike Schulte made a motion to approve both November 17, 2025, and December 1, 2025 meeting minutes. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Julie Jindrich, Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright & Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Public Participation - None.

Special Events Permit Applications

Three Special Event Permit applications were discussed. A wedding at Saulsbury Lodge, under the name of Rice, on May 15, 16 & 17th, 2026. Iowa Airstream Club at Saulsbury Lodge, June 27-28, 2026, and CROP Walk at Discovery Park Shelter #1 on October 4, 2026. Jeff Snyder made a motion to approve all three Special Events Permit applications. Sherry Seright seconded. Voting aye: Julie Jindrich, Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright & Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Update on Projects

Eric Furnas reported with project updates. A map of the Disc Golf Course at Deep Lakes Park was displayed for the Board. The map was marked where the golf baskets and tees would be, and with vegetation and brush that would need to be removed or trimmed by staff. The date for the final project report for the Carver Grant was extended to June 13, 2026. Heat pump #12 was replaced by R3 Heating & Air on December 3-5, 2026.

FY27 Budget updates, discussion and possible action

Salaries have been updated in the FY27 Budget. The Board does not want to add a dollar amount

Into the line item for Vegetation/Habitat management for FY27. They would like to see a long-term plan with total costs for all areas that would need to be managed, as well as alternate methods of managing the same areas. Also, a comparison of what it would cost to purchase a skid steer, maintenance for the skid steer and how many man hours would be needed to do the Vegetation/Habitat management by staff, verses hiring out for the Vegetation/Habitat management. The Board also suggested checking into grant money for Vegetation/Habitat management. Kala Naber has updated the benefits line items with projected amounts. The Board does not want to proceed with the two restrooms for Saulsbury at this time and would rather focus on getting the Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Shop finished. Sherry Seright made a motion to approve the amended FY27 Budget. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Julie Jindrich, Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright & Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Discussion and possible action to set a public hearing for Monday, January 19, 2026, at 6:15 p.m. on proposed plans, specifications, form of contract, and cost estimate for the Muscatine County Conservation Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Building Project

Eric Furnas gave an overview of the plans and specifications submitted by Horizon Architecture for the Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Building and also gave the Board a timeline to get the Muscatine County Conservation Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Building Project started.

December 15, 2025 – Set public hearing for January 19, 2026.

January 5, 2026 – Publish the public hearing date in the newspapers.

January 19, 2026 – 6:15 p.m. – Hold public hearing at regular Board meeting.

January 26, 2026 – 1:00 p.m. - Pre-Bid walk around at Deep Lakes Park.

February 12, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. – Bids are due/Bid Opening.

Eric Furnas asked the Board to make a motion to set a public hearing date of January 19, 2026.

Sherry Seright made a motion to set a public hearing date of January 19, 2026. Jeff Snyder seconded.

Voting aye: Julie Jindrich, Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright & Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Discussion and possible action on mowing at Nye Cemetery & Jack Shuger Memorial Park for 2026.

The Board discussed quotes sent from Robert Peck for \$65.00 per mow at Nye Cemetery and \$110.00 per mow at Jack Shuger Memorial Park for 2026. Mike Schulte made a motion to approve both quotes from Robert Peck for mowing 2026 at Nye Cemetery and Jack Shuger Memorial Park. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Julie Jindrich, Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright & Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Lori Dietrich gave the Environmental Education report. 1183 kids & 204 adults, for a total of 1387 people were served during 91 programs since the last meeting.

No Operations report was given, although it was noted that staff have been very busy with snow removal and regular maintenance.

Other Items from the Director

On the Director's behalf, Eric Furnas informed the Board that a grant for Ballistic Vests for three Park Rangers has been applied for. If received, the grant will reimburse \$1,310.25, which is half of the \$2,620.50 total. Also, a grant request for \$10,000 from Muscatine Charities has been made for 10 kayaks, paddles and a new trailer. Total cost for kayaks, paddles and trailer is \$13,285.36.

Items from the Board

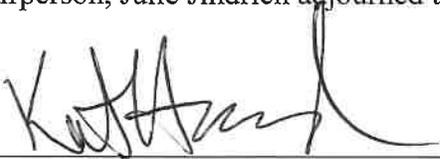
Mike Schulte wanted staff to know that the MPW street security light at the entrance to the park was not on tonight, when he came to the meeting. Staff will call Muscatine Power & Water tomorrow and let them know. Chairperson Julie Jindrich congratulated the Board and staff on a great year.

Claims

Karen Hartman made a motion to approve all claims in the amount of \$20,542.23. Sherry Seright seconded. Voting aye: Julie Jindrich, Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright & Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Adjournment

Chairperson, Julie Jindrich adjourned the meeting at 7:01 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Hammond', written over a horizontal line.

Katie Hammond, Director – Muscatine County Conservation