

Clinton County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes
November 18th, 2025
and Via Zoom

Welcome & Introductions:

The regular meeting of the Clinton County Conservation Board was called to order by Karen Bradway on November 18th at 6:01 pm.

Board members present: Gloria Friederichsen, Karen Bradway, Jeff Beckwith and Dan Srp via zoom.

Staff: Philip Visser, Darin Voss, and Tiffany Wink

Agenda: The Board approved the agenda.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes from October 21st, 2025, meeting was presented. Gloria Friederichsen moved to approve the minutes, Jeff Beckwith seconded, motion carried.

Financial/Treasurer's Report: Review of current budget report and upcoming expenses.

Approval of Bills: Bills were presented for Conservation, Gloria Friederichsen moved to approve the bills; Dan Srp seconded, motion carried.

Department Report:

Administrative: There was a slight increase in reservations in October this year compared to last year. All campgrounds are winterized and when it snows the gates to Walnut Grove and Sherman Park will be closed and locked. This year we will not be lowering camping prices through the winter months, it seems when we do have a camper they tend to used space heaters instead of their furnaces which is costly on the electricity bill for the county.

The Foundation Banquet was well attended and successful. Brian Tugana matched the amount that was raised and also made a generous donation as well.

Department wide meeting will be next Monday, we will be discussing the "Proposed" Compensation policy, Phil as invited Ally to join.

East District: All the docs have been removed out of the water; it was a bit more challenging due to the water being low this year. We did receive assistance with a marsh master on a dock that was stuck in the mud.

EE: Naturalists are picking up on in-school programs and doing some public programs one being the History of Beaver Island, Sour Dough class, and Crafting using deer tallow. All naturalists attended IAN that was hosted in Scott County this year. Jill will be in Des Moines for a conference.

NR: Been Busy mowing fire breaks, fixed creek crossing at Manikowski, and removed a beaver dam at Wheatland public hunting. Al assisted with doc removal at Rock Creek. They have been organizing the sheds for winter storage of equipment, and winterization of equipment.

At Brookfield trail we have some branches hanging over the fence line, looking back at the agreement we need to cut the trees back 15ft from fence.

New Business:

- a) Rock Creek Eco Center Projects – We received 3 quotes from Clinton Engineering for the repairs for the deck at Rock Creek Eco center.
 1. Replace the railing at \$93,000.
 2. Replace the salt eroded joist hangers - \$34,170.
 3. Replace existing exterior doors - \$38,280.

Phil and the board discussed different options and costs of the project. It was decided that a horizontal railing is not an ideal option and would become a ladder for kids to climb. Jeff suggested adding brackets that would be bolted to the deck and attach existing bottom of railing to prevent movement of the spindles.

Jeff Beckwith motioned to table the project for now, and he was going to go out and look at it, Gloria Friederichsen second, motioned carried.

- b) Department Staffing Needs – Kyle Redmond is leaving the county, and we will need to fill the position of Park Supervisor for Rock Creek location. Dan Srp motioned to advance to post the position, Jeff Beckwith seconded, motion carried.

c) FY2027 Budget Discussion – Phil discussed some possible purchases for the upcoming year.

1. Eden Valley truck or the Natural Resources truck replacement.
2. Hustler mowers and starting the rotation of phasing out for new ones.
3. Colton is working on prices for new docks at Rock Creek
4. New Huffcutt vault restroom at Killdeer and Eden Valley back valley that will need to be built.
5. Replacing the deck at the bunkhouse cabin.

Old Business:

a) Rock Creek Slough Dredging – We did not get the water access grant from the DNR, we will reapply. We do not qualify for the Fish and Wildlife grant for this project.

Natural Resources Strategic Planning Discussion –

1. Boundary signs are getting old, working on inventory and replacing.
2. Bigger signs in parking lots of public hunting areas that have boundaries and regulations or possibly a QR Code for a map and rules.
3. We were approached by a adjacent landowner of the Wheatland Wildlife area that would like to do a land swap, however, is property is in an EWP water protection.
4. There are 40 acres next to Ringneck Marsh that would be nice to acquire if it ever became available. And Manikowski also has an approximate 25 acres that is currently farmed that would be nice to acquire as well. Right we are allowed access to get to our stuff.
5. Would like to purchase a mulching head for the skid loader.

Public Comment:

Darin said we had a hunters from Wisconsin and Minnesota give us praise for our public hunting areas, and that we do a great job.

Adjournment – Karen Bradway to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 – 6pm - Location Grand Mound or via Zoom

Karen Bradway, Chair

Gloria Friederichsen, Secretary/Treasurer