

Clinton County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

December 16th, 2025
and Via Zoom

Welcome & Introductions:

The regular meeting of the Clinton County Conservation Board was called to order by Karen Bradway on December 16th at 6:00 pm.

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

Staff: Philip Visser and Jill Schmidt

Agenda: The Board approved the agenda.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes from November 18th, 2026, meeting was presented. Dan Srp moved to approve the minutes, Gloria Friederichsen 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: Staff has been working on snow removal, and we were able to have an "All Staff" department wide meeting with Ally. We spent time discussing the possible compensation plan proposal, the meeting went well.

East District: A lot of aquarium work has been done by adding new filters and removing the divider out of the tank, it looks great.

NR: Darin and Al have been using the snowblower on the new cement in front of the Grand Mound building instead of the skid loader. They hosted a "workday" at Manikowski with help from some outside county employees.

EE: The naturalists are going into classrooms doing programs now. Jill worked on downsizing and finalizing the newsletter. Working with Edwards Creations on the new travel trailer for designs, looking at approximately April 16th completion date.

Eden Valley nature center is coming along. Starting February/March, they are going to start moving everything back into the building and work on Phase 3. We received the new GPS units and will need to start programming them.

New Business:

- a) McCausland Access Management Agreement – Phil discussed the renewal of the agreement. Managing the area is very minimal and easy to maintain. The agreement renewal is for 25 years.

Dan Srp motioned to sign agreement with the DNR, Gloria Friederichsen seconded, motion carried.

- b) Conservation Foundation Star Lab Purchase – Historically EE has rented the Star Lab from AEA. The AEA has changed their rules on not allowing non-school affiliated organizations and it is more difficult to get.

Hannah did some research on the cost of a new one, and after some discussion the purchase was presented to the Conservation Foundation. The Conservation Foundation granted the purchase. It will be a great addition to our EE Department.

Old Business:

- a) Rock Creek Eco Center Projects – After the last meeting, Jeff Beckwith went to Rock Creek to look at the doors, railing on the deck and joist hangers. He spoke with Harts Lock on weatherstripping for the doors to fix leakage and gap issues. On the railing Jeff spoke with one of his distributors Lumber Office Ellspring, it was suggested that we use a square tube bracket modified to an L shape that will slip under the deck then secure it to the side of the roof.

Jeff suggested starting with supports for the railing, then replacing the joist hangers. He is going to order a couple samples of the square tube brackets and experiment with them.

- b) FY2027 Budget Discussion – Phil presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027. The Board discussed each line and adjusted as needed. The Board specifically asked if a forestry mulcher would be needed under heavy equipment and decided to instead add funds to the rental equipment line and rent a mulcher. The board also decided to seek to replace a lawnmower and replace the West District one ton truck.

Gloria Friedrichsen motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2027, seconded by Jeff Beckwith, motion passed.

Environmental Education Strategic Planning Discussion –

Jill said there are mainly 3 major projects –

1. Eden Valley Nature Center – Just working on Phase 3 and completing the project.
2. Travel Trailer – Getting ideas and completing it for future programs, she is working with Edwards Creations on the project.
3. Star Lab – Work on training and getting used the new system

Public Comment:

Adjournment – Karen Bradway to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 20th, 2025 – 6pm - Location Grand Mound or via Zoom

Karen Bradway, Chair

Gloria Friederichsen, Secretary/Treasurer