

Clinton County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

July 21st, 2026
and Via Zoom

Welcome & Introductions:

The regular meeting of the Clinton County Conservation Board was called to order by Gloria Friederichsen on July 21st at 6:04 pm.

Board members present: Gloria Friederichsen, Brian Grell, Brian Tugana and Karen Bradway.

Staff: Philip Visser and Tiffany Wink

Guests: Meghan Funke from WHKS via Zoom

Agenda: The Board approved the agenda

Old Business:

- a) Rock Creek Dredging Project/Professional Services Agreement – Meghan Funke from WHKS presented a proposal to the board with an updated Service Agreement in taking the first small steps to get a better idea of what is needed for the dredging project.

- 1. Project Management and Meetings
- 2. Dredged Material Disposal Alternatives
- 3. Bathymetric Survey and Research of Existing Conditions

Items 1-2 – Billed hourly with a Not-to-Exceed Fee of \$7,000. Expenses billed at actual costs and mileage at the current published IRS rate per mile. External Expenses include an administrative charge of 10 percent.

Item 3 – Lump Sum Fee of \$8,500 including expenses

The board held discussion on the different challenges we face with the low water levels and the ongoing siltation from the Wapsi River. The WHKS options 1 and 2 would answer the many questions the board has.

Karen Bradway motioned to approve moving forward with options 1 & 2, Brian Grell seconded, motion carried 3 votes to 1, with Brian Tugana voting no.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes from June 16th, 2026, meeting was presented. Brian Grell moved to approve the minutes, Brian Tugana seconded, motion carried.

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

Approval of Bills: Bills were presented for Conservation, Brian Tugana moved to approve the bills; Karen Bradway second, motion carried.

Department Report:

Administrative: Camping registrations are down. We are having complaints about the bugs being bad at Walnut Grove and Sherman Park. July 4th weekend the campgrounds were not full, it was a rainy and hot weekend. Online reservations are staying steady. We are also getting ready for the fair booth.

EE: Summer camps have been going on, next month we will be getting back into fieldtrip season. In August we will lose our three externs, Eric who is with Darin and Al in Natural Resources, Emma and Evan have been helping EE. We will be losing quite a few of our seasonals out at the parks as well in August.

West District: There has been quite a bit of high water at Walnut Grove and Sherman Park, so there has been a lot of clean up done. Out at Walnut Grove there were some water issues in the park, we have added a new additional pressure tank. The Iowa DNR met with staff at Walnut Grove and had some recommendations for getting good water samples.

Natural Resources: Darin and Al had a great program with the tour of the Lost Nation public hunting area.

New Business:

- a. Iowa County Conservation Systems Fall Conference Attendance – The Iowa County Conservation System has their fall conference coming up, four employees will be signed up for now. The Naturalists are busy with field trips and are unable to attend. Board members are also welcome to join and should let Phil know by the end of the month.
- b. Risk Management – Brian Tugana discussed his concerns regarding the Polar Plunge for safety and liability. The board discussed that this was an event organized by the Conservation Foundation and not the Conservation Board.

- c. Sharing of Information Dr. Brian Tugana – Dr. Brian Tugan touted a recently published book, “The Great River”.

Old Business:

- a. Zero Turn Mower Information/Possible Purchase - Phil supplied the board with the number of hours for each mower in use at our parks. The hours range from 375 to 775 hours on the mowers. The board discussed the options and decided to wait until next year to revisit the purchase of a new mower and for now rotate the higher hour units with the lower hour units.

Public Comment:

Adjournment –Gloria Friedrichsen to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 21st, 2026 – 6pm - Location Grand Mound or via Zoom

Jeff Beckwith, Chair

Brian Grell, Secretary/Treasurer