

Story County Conservation Board
December 8, 2025
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present

Christine Laumer – present

Erica Place – present

Jim Pease – present

Judy Levings – present

Linda Murken – absent

STAFF

Jerry Keys

Marianne Harrelson

Brandon Clough

GUESTS

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS – MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Place. MCU.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2025, Minutes. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Pease. MCU.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Levings. Board members emailed their questions, and Harrelson provided explanations prior to the meeting. MCU.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

8. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 12th.

9. APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

MOTION by Place, SECOND by Laumer. MCU.

10. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (All items under the consent agenda will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time the Board votes on the motion.)

A. Approval Of The 2026 Story County Conservation Board Meeting Dates

MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Place. MCU.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

A. Discussion And Direction Of The Hickory Grove Park Oak Wilt Management Plan
Brandon Clough was joined via Teams by Tivon Freeley, IDNR Forestry Health Program Leader, and Joe Herring, IDNR District Forester, to provide information about the Oak Wilt spread at Hickory Grove Park. There are approximately 75-100 infected oak trees that need to be taken down to help prevent further spread and save thousands of other oak trees. The ideal time to remove the trees is during the winter months, before April 1st. After the presentation and some discussion, the Board directed staff to proceed with the IDNR recommendations for this fiscal year as an unbudgeted expense.

- B. Consideration Of Contract With Roxbox For Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor Shelter Design For \$12,705.00. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Laumer. Pease has been working with Cox and Shive-Hattery on this project, and he provided some background regarding this contact. This shelter design is retrofitted out of several recycled shipping containers with an ADA restroom, kitchenette, storage, and picnic area. MCU.
- C. Consideration Of 2026 Legislative Priorities. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Levings. Place requested a few minor changes to be made before it is distributed. MCU.
- D. Review and Approval of Story County Conservation FY27 Capital Improvement Project Plan. MOTION by Laumer, SECOND by Levings. Harrelson stated there were no changes to the CIP from last month. MCU.
- E. Review and Approval of FY27 Conservation and IRVM Budget Proposals. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Laumer. Harrelson noted the changes made since last month's review. MCU.

12. UPDATES

- A. General Updates: Harrelson and Keys updated the board that the US Army Corps of Engineers has completed the land transfer on their end.
- B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements on the Board: Laumer attended the Outdoor Alliance of Story County meeting. They are discussing the Master River Stewards program and the HOINT bike ride at their next meeting. Place attended the Nature Summit and the Iowa Farmers Union Convention. She enjoyed Olivia and Logan's KHOI radio interviews, mentioned that Prairie Rivers of Iowa is seeking a new executive director, and reminded everyone that the Iowa Prairie Network winter seminar is on January 4th. Pease is still going through files and found a Story County Conservation Outdoor Recreation Plan book from 1969. With this being his last official board meeting, he noted that it has been an honor and a privilege serving on the board.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Place, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board