

Story County Conservation Board
January 12, 2026
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

Judy Levings – present

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Sara Carmichael

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

Rick Dietz

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Meyers administered the Oath of Office to James Colbert, who will serve until 2030.

5. ELECT 2026 OFFICERS

MOTION by Place, nominating Laumer as Chair, Laumer nominated Place as Vice-Chair, and Laumer nominated Levings as Secretary. SECOND by Colbert. MCU

Meyers turned the gavel over to Laumer, who chaired the remainder of the meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Meetz mentioned his monthly update on KHOI with SCC staff and thanked the board for covering the expenses for the Olav Smedal Conservation Award. The selected candidate will be announced in February.

7. STAFF REPORT

Sara Carmichael, Watershed Coordinator, submitted a written annual report. She reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 8, 2025, Minutes. MOTION by Place, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

9. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Place, SECOND by Meyers. Board members asked some questions, and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

11. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 9th.

12. 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. Consideration Of A Temporary Construction Easement With Rafael Geronimo For Hannum's Mill Dam Mitigation

- B. Consideration Of A Temporary Construction Easement With WesTech Inc. For Hannum's Mill Dam Mitigation
 - C. Consideration Of Disposal Of An Agricultural Building At The Deppe Family Conservation Area
- MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Place. MCU.

13. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- A. Consideration Of Contract Between D&J's Complete Tree Service For Tree Removal At Hickory Grove Park for \$70,000.00. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Place. This contract is for the removal of approximately 70 oak wilt-infected trees. We received only two quotes, and this contractor was the low bidder. Tree removal will be completed before March 15, 2026. MCU.

14. UPDATES

- A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on the residence plan, WMA, Habitat Stamp, and Water Trail grants, and the Watershed Coordinator job posting.
- B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements on the Board: Meyers attended the retirement party for Jim Pease. Place also attended Pease's retirement party, the Ames Regional Economic Alliance banquet, and she is hoping to attend the upcoming budget work session. Colbert thanked the board for everything that they have done for Story County Conservation and mentioned that he is also involved with Pheasants Forever, Outdoor Alliance of Story County, and Prairie Rivers of Iowa, and can be a liaison between these groups. Murken mentioned that the US Supreme Court denied the request to hear Story County's case against the pipeline ordinance.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Levings, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Recording Secretary

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