



MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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August 17 2026
Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Muscatine County Conservation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, August 17, 2026 at the Environmental Learning Center. Chairperson Mike Schulte called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Members present: Mike Schulte, Jeff Snyder, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich & Sherry Seright.

Members absent: None

Also present: Katie Hammond, Eric Furnas, Lori Dietrich, Scott Sauer & Jeremy Hopkins

Meeting Minutes

Karen Hartman made a motion to approve July 20, 2026, meeting minutes, Sherry Seright seconded.

Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Karen Hartman, Sherry Seright, and Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Public Participation – None.

Discussion and possible action to approve a temporary easement allowing nearby residential traffic to utilize a road in Discovery Park during construction of the Houser/Fulliam round-a-bout project.

Jeremy Hopkins, from the City of Muscatine, presented information about the upcoming round-about project at Houser and Fulliam in 2027. The temporary easement would be ONLY for the homes on Duncan Dr, W Fulliam Ave (on the west side of N Houser St.) and the loop including Ginkgo Ln, Redwood Dr., and Linden Ln. The city will keep Hauser open as long as possible, only utilizing the easement when necessary. Jeremy Hopkins stated that the City of Muscatine is willing to pay 10% of the Land Value and will pay for any damage to the roads/areas that would be in use. The Board all agreed that there should be speed controls, like speed bumps and speed limits in place as well as no construction vehicles or equipment allowed through this area during the project time frame. The Board gave direction for staff to work with the City of Muscatine on the easement agreement language and will revisit the subject at a later Board meeting. No action taken.

Discussion and possible action on a new Law Enforcement Policy.

Katie Hammond presented a draft of a new Law Enforcement Policy that she would like to implement with time management, accountability and more public presence for our Law Enforcement staff.

The Board discussed the different aspects of the Policy. Sherry Seright made a motion to approve the new Law Enforcement Policy, Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Karen Hartman, Sherry Seright, and Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Discussion and possible action on applying for grants.

Katie Hammond informed the Board that Michelle Berns is looking into a Muscatine Health Support Foundation Grant for an additional kayak trailer, kayaks and life jackets in the amount of \$13,285.00. Also, staff is looking at a Wildlife Diversity Grant of \$7,500.00 through the Iowa DNR to work on Shield Prairie maintenance. Some ideas for new exhibits and displays at the Environmental Learning Center were discussed. Saulsbury Lodge is also in need of some updates and improvements for which there is a small amount of money in the budget. Staff will compile a list of improvements and present them to the Board. The Board granted permission to pursue these grants and other avenues of funding for projects.

Discussion and decision on Special Events applications. – None.

Update on Projects.

Katie Hammond gave project updates. At the Deep Lakes Park Maintenance building, waterproofing is being done on the remaining cracks.

Regarding the lightning strike at the Cabins, the parts are in for repairs, repairs should be done soon, the septic system is working, and costs will be covered by insurance.

One more tee pad to pour for the Disc Golf Course needs to be done and signs are being made by Musco.

The Osprey platforms are ready to be installed and MOTUS will be ready to be installed soon.

Environmental Education Report.

Katie Hammond gave the Environmental Education report. 432 kids, 197 adults for a total of 629 people served during 30 programs since the last board meeting. Nature Camps and other summer programs are finished for the year. Hunter Education will be on August 29th, as well as a Twilight Paddle at Deep Lakes at 7:30PM that evening.

Operations report

Katie Hammond gave the operations report. At Saulsbury and Moscow, staff cleaned up downed trees. Staff repaired road washouts at Gedney Lake.

At Saulsbury, Moscow and McKeown Bridge, the boat ramps were cleaned up.

The Triathlon was held the first weekend of August at Deep Lakes Park.

Two benches that were donated were assembled and installed at Jewell Lake and the campground. Mower repairs were done at Saulsbury along with other regular summer maintenance.

Other items from the Director

The Director was contacted by someone from the Muscatine Arts Council about etching and painting a contest winning poem by Mike Fladlien on a concrete path by the front pond. The installation is done and paid for by the Arts Council. The Board all agreed it would be okay.

An agreement with the Friends of the Old Barn is still in process. They will need to increase their insurance as the County has insurance on the barn building itself, but they will need insurance on the contents of the Barn. She also met with the Arboretum group to discuss future plans for the Muscatine Arboretum.

Items from the Board

Julie Jindrich asked to see monthly counts on the facilities usage at the Board meetings.

Claims

Jeff Snyder made a motion to approve all claims in the amount of \$16,517.90. Sherry Seright seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Sherry Seright, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich and Jeff Snyder.

Voting nay: none.

Adjournment

Chairperson, Mike Schulte adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Katie Hammond, Director – Muscatine County Conservation