MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
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October 19, 2026
Regular Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
MUSCATINE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Muscatine County Conservation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, October 19, 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, and Julie Jindrich.
Members absent: Sherry Seright
Also present: Katie Hammond, Eric Furnas, Lori Dietrich, and Scott Sauer.

Meeting Minutes
Karen Hartman made a motion to approve September 21, 2026, meeting minutes, Jeff Snyder seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Karen Hartman, and Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Public Participation – None.

Discussion and possible action to affirm Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Shop Change Order #5 – Added Steel Wall Sheeting in the amount of $3,275.00. Karen Hartman made a motion to approve the Change Order #5 for $3,275.00. Jeff Snyder seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Karen Hartman, and Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Discussion and possible action on Deep Lake Maintenance Shop well bid Change Order #1 to add a water softener and reserve osmosis system in the amount of $2,775.00. Julie Jindrich made a motion to approve Change Order #1. Karen Hartman seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Karen Hartman, and Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Discussion and possible action to approve a bid for work on the Environmental Learning Center's fire line backflow assembly and valves. Eric Furnas informed the board of deficiencies with the fire line backflow preventer, the repairs that were needed and the proposal of fees for services from Tri-State Automatic Sprinkler in the amount of $8,070.00 No work has been done yet, and this would be general maintenance to the building. No action was taken.

Discussion and possible action to approve a letter of support for a Nature Conservancy grant project. Katie Hammond requested approval of a letter of support to The Nature Conservancy for a Cedar River Flood Risk Mitigation Study. Karen Hartman made a motion to approve, Jeff Snyder seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Julie Jindrich, Karen Hartman, and Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Discussion and decision on Special Events applications. – None.

Update on Projects.
Katie Hammond gave project updates. The Deep Lakes Park Maintenance building is moving forward, liner steel is up, insulation is in, and the drywall is currently being completed. Still waiting for UV control panel parts to get here to repair the last of the damage from the lightning strike at the cabins. The disc golf course is complete and up and running. This coming Wednesday, Oct 21, 2026, the MOTUS antenna will be installed at Discovery Park. Due to a failed water sample at Saulsbury, Latta is helping to troubleshoot and treat the water. The National Mississippi River Parkway Commission Conference for the Great River Road will be held in Muscatine in October of 2027.

Environmental Education Report.
Katie Hammond gave the Environmental Education report as provided by Naturalist, Michelle Berns. 928 kids and 350 adults, a total of 1278 people served during 60 programs since the last board meeting.

Operations report
Katie Hammond gave the operations report as provided by Operations Supervisor, Kent Kauffman. At Deep Lakes Park the sidewalk is being completed that will connect the bike trail to the campground. The law enforcement rangers attended CCPOA, a 3-day continuing education training for County Conservation Peace Officers Association. At Saulsbury, staff prepped twice for flood and flood cleanup. Mowed crop fields for weed control and prepared for the Halloween Drive-thru. In Discovery Park staff have been preparing for the MOTUS antenna installation. General maintenance, mower repairs and new tires for the mower trailer.

Other items from the Director
Katie Hammond informed the Board that at the November 2, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting, there probably will be some budget direction provided.

Items from the Board – Julie Jindrich asked if it was ever considered to have the Board meetings during the day instead of evenings. Mike Schulte stated a decision should not be made until all members were present.

Claims
Jeff Snyder made a motion to approve all claims in the amount of $22,602.47. Julie Jindrich seconded. Voting aye: Mike Schulte, Karen Hartman, Julie Jindrich and Jeff Snyder. Voting nay: none.

Adjournment
Chairperson, Mike Schulte adjourned the meeting at 6:39 P.M.

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Katie Hammond, Director – Muscatine County Conservation