

## WINNEBAGO COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting: Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 8:00 A.M.

Location: Hanson Nature Center 41600 Hwy 69 Leland, IA 50453

### Board Members Present

Tim Missal

Nancy Helm (acting Chair)

Mark Flatrud

### Board Members Absent

Jeff Schmidt

Julie Hagenson

### Staff Present

Chris Barber, Director

Lisa Ralls, Naturalist

### Guests

Susan Smith

Vice Chairperson Helm called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting agenda was approved with a motion from Missal, seconded by Flatrud. Unanimous. Motion carried.

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Missal, seconded by Helm. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Work and budget reports were reviewed.

There was continued discussion on the proposed Ryerson land swap. Much of the discussion pertained to public sentiment and future precedent that would be set if the land swap were to go forward. No action was taken.

Following continued discussion on the purchase of a disk cultivator, a motion was made by Flatrud, seconded by Missal, to approve the purchase of a disk when an appropriate one was found. Unanimous. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Missal, seconded by Flatrud, to approve a contract with WHKS Engineering to inspect the foot bridge across the Winnebago River at Ambrosion Park to ensure it's safe for public use and to give us a plan for the bridge's replacement.

The board held a discussion on setting the rental rates for both the old and new cabin at Thorpe Park. It was also discussed that we will look at the rental policies next month.

Claims were approved for payment with a motion by Helm, seconded by Hagenson. Unanimous. Motion carried.

In other business, the board was informed about the Mae Helgeson bird calendars that are being sold as a memorial and the profits will be donated to the nature center for future bird-related exhibits.

There was also discussion about the telecommunications line that was laying in the river presenting a safety hazard. Numerous attempts have been to find the owner of the cable and we will continue to work with the DNR and other entities to get it removed.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Flatrud, seconded by Missal. Unanimous. Motion carried.