

JONES COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes from the meeting of January 6, 2026, held at the Central Park Nature Center.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Megan Manternach.

Present were Board Members: Dean Zimmerman, Megan Manternach, Jon Zirkelbach, Russ Von Behren and John Carlson. Staff present were Brad Mormann and Jennifer Koopmann.

Introduction of Guests:

Approve the Agenda:

Jon made a motion to accept the January agenda. Seconded by John. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review & Approval of the December 8th Meeting Minutes:

Dean made a motion to accept the December meeting minutes. Seconded by Russ. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Expenditures and Revenues:

Jon made a motion to accept the Expenditures and Revenues as presented. Seconded by Dean. All ayes. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

Dean made a motion to accept the staff reports. Seconded by John. All ayes. Motion carried.

Business Item:

Board Officer Rotation for 2026. Russ made a motion to approve the 2026 Officer Rotation of John Carlson, President, Russ VonBehren, Vice President, Jon Zirkelbach, Secretary, Dean Zimmerman, Board Member and Megan Manternach, Board Member. Seconded by Megan. All ayes. Motion carried.

Central Park Lakeside Trail Draft Layout Review. The Board reviewed the Central Park Lakeside Trail draft layout.

Central Park 2026 Firewood Vendor Approval. Russ made a motion to approve Jacob Lorenzen as the 2026 Firewood Vendor. Seconded by Megan. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chevrolet Traverse Deer Damage Repair Bid Review. Megan made a motion to accept the low bid of \$2181.40 from Keith Dirks Auto Body. Seconded by Russ. All ayes. Motion carried.

Computer Acquisition Bid Review. Megan made a motion to approve the bid of \$3977 to purchase a computer. Seconded by Dean. All ayes. Motion carried.

Central Park Land Rental Bid Review. Jon made a motion to accept the high bid of \$297/acre plus \$18.75 per round bale made over 4 per acre from Cody Hanson for the Central Park land rent. Seconded by Russ. All ayes. Motion carried.

Eby's Mill Wildlife Area Land Rental Bid Review. Russ made a motion to accept the high bid of \$300/acre from Andrew Smith for the Eby's Mill Wildlife Area land rent. Seconded by Megan. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review of Proposed FY26 and FY27 Department Budget. Russ made a motion to approve the

proposed budget with the Office Manager acquiring an 8% salary increase valued at \$1.97/hour to fill the \$6/hour gap between similar county positions over three years, and a 3.5% salary increase for permanent fulltime staff since we have achieved the long time goal of getting them up to comparable salaries with statewide positions, allowing us to help the county budget, as well as our budget as a whole. Seconded by Dean. All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Items:

Educational Event Updates: Educational event handouts were provided to the Board.

Conservation Area and Project Updates: Updates provided on the cedar trees removed from Hamilton Tapken Prairie and placed in the Hale WA and Central Park ponds for fish habitat, the upcoming grant application for the Central Park Sidewalk Trail, and the scheduled Board of Supervisors budget planning meeting.

Adjournment: Russ moved to adjourn. Seconded by Megan. All ayes. John adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm. The next meeting is planned for February 9, at 6:30 pm at Central Park.