

**REGULAR MEETING  
JASPER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
Conservation Office, Armory Building  
February 3, 2026, 8:00 A.M.**

**Board Members Present:** Chris Herbold, Andy Stone, Thad Nearmyer, and Willie Yeager

**Board Members Absent:** Carol Kramer

**Staff Present:** Keri Van Zante, Jerry Ratliff, Katie Cantu, Greg Oldsen, and Liz Ventling

**Guests Present:** Dennis Simon and Fran Henderson

With a quorum present, the business meeting was called to order by Chairperson Yeager at 8:30 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- ACTION 26-77.** Motion by Stone, second by Yeager to approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2026 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- ACTION 26-78.** Motion by Stone, second by Yeager to approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2026 special meeting. Motion carried unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- ACTION 26-79.** Motion by Stone, second by Yeager to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2026 special meeting. Motion carried unanimously

**APPROVAL OF BILLS – ACTION 26-80.** Motion by Stone, second by Yeager, that the following bills be approved for payment from the conservation fund:

Newton Public Works Landfill	0031-22-0210-000-44142	\$41.37	C
Amazon Prime	0001-22-6100-000-26000	\$139.00	C
Capital City Equipment	0001-22-6110-000-44300	\$128.38	C
Arrow Pest Control	0001-22-6110-000-44142	\$80.00	
Home Depot	0031-22-0210-000-44142	\$1,923.11	C
Theisens	0001-22-6110-000-43043	\$75.96	C
Walmart	0001-22-6100-000-29139	\$4.97	C
Walmart	0001-22-6110-000-20142	\$2.88	C
Skunk River Sanitation	0001-22-6110-000-21944	\$55.00	
MELEE, LLC	0028-22-0210-000-60000	\$2,460.00	

Synder & Associates	1555-22-0220-000-60100	\$3,350.46	
Dodd's Trash & Hauling	0001-22-6110-000-44142	\$80.00	
IRL Parking	0001-22-6100-000-41341	\$8.00	C
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43242	\$25.81	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43242	\$25.81	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43242	\$25.82	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43242	\$25.81	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43243	\$25.98	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-21249	\$141.08	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43244	\$27.15	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43242	\$25.71	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43243	\$58.24	
IRUA	0001-22-6110-000-43242	\$26.44	
IDALS Pesticide License	0001-22-6100-000-42200	\$28.00	C
IDALS Pesticide License	0001-22-6100-000-42200	\$28.00	C
Canva	0001-22-6100-000-40000	\$14.99	C
CDW	0001-22-6100-000-40000	\$744.56	
Amazon	0005-22-6100-000-29280	\$101.98	C
Amazon	0005-22-6100-000-29280	\$46.63	C
Arrow Pest Control	0001-22-6110-000-44142	\$80.00	
Barney's Services Inc	0001-22-6110-000-24100	\$275.00	
Walmart	0001-22-6100-000-29139	\$26.43	C
Walmart	0001-22-6110-000-20142	\$15.72	C
Walmart	0001-22-6110-000-23200	\$4.63	C
Theisens	0005-22-6100-000-29280	\$32.96	C
Walmart	0005-22-6100-000-29280	\$28.48	C
Newton Classic Car	0001-22-6110-000-44000	\$34.00	
Alliant Energy	0001-22-6110-000-43143	\$277.02	
Alliant Energy	0001-22-6110-000-43142	\$37.41	
Alliant Energy	0001-22-6110-000-43143	\$26.22	
Alliant Energy	0001-22-6110-000-43142	\$226.43	
DC Sports	0001-22-6100-000-29400	\$122.00	
Amazon	0028-22-0210-000-60000	\$496.00	C
Amazon	0028-22-0210-000-60000	\$13.65	C
Amazon	0028-22-0210-000-60000	\$710.47	C
Amazon	0001-22-6110-000-23200	\$14.44	C
Menards	0031-22-0210-000-44142	\$34.97	C
Etsy	0028-22-0210-000-60000	\$560.68	C
Etsy	0028-22-0210-000-60000	-\$36.68	C
Amazon	0001-22-6100-000-26000	\$25.99	C
Amazon	0001-22-6100-000-26000	\$76.37	C
Amazon	0001-22-6100-000-26000	\$200.98	C
Amazon	0001-22-6110-000-29300	\$183.96	C

Amazon	0001-22-6110-000-29300	\$30.74	C
Walmart	0001-22-6100-000-29139	\$20.78	C
Walmart	0005-22-6100-000-29280	\$8.91	C
Theisens	0005-22-6100-000-29280	\$25.56	C
Foreman Electric and Plumbing	0001-22-6110-000-44144	\$1,785.00	
Menards	0001-22-6110-000-44142	\$1,270.92	C
Menards	0001-22-6110-000-44142	\$398.00	C
Theisens	0001-22-6110-000-43044	\$84.98	C
Theisens	0001-22-6110-000-43043	\$82.96	C
Alliant Energy	0001-22-6110-000-43142	\$223.72	
Amazon	0001-22-6110-000-44146	\$149.95	C
Amazon	0001-22-6100-000-26000	-\$76.37	C
Amazon	0001-22-6100-000-26000	-\$25.99	C
Capitol City Equipment	0001-22-6110-000-24100	\$55.66	C
Amazon	0001-22-6100-000-26000	\$107.95	C
Authorize.net	0001-22-6100-000-40000	\$12.80	C
Scheels	0005-22-6100-000-29280	\$699.99	C

**\$ 18,043.83**

Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS- ACTION 26-81.** Motion by Stone, second by Nearmyer to approve the January 2026 digital transactions. Motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

A report was given by Ratliff, Cantu, Oldsen and Ventling.

**IOWA PUBLIC INFORMATION BOARD (IPIB) RESOLUTION 26-01 TO RECERTIFY THE 8/25/25 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AND DOCUMENT NOTICE POLICY FOR JASPER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEETINGS- ACTION 26-82.** The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) has asked the Jasper County Conservation Board to recertify their actions for the 8/25/25 special meeting, as well as affirm a notice policy for conservation board meetings.

Motion by Yeager, second by Stone to approve Resolution 26-01 recertifying the actions of the 8/25/25 Conservation Board meeting, including:

1. Documenting the Jasper County Conservation Boards ability to provide all funding necessary to complete the Environmental Education Center Project for the Destination Iowa Grant
2. Moving forward with advertising and filling the open Admin/Env Ed Assistant Position.

3. In addition, the conservation board will continue to advertise their meetings on the Jasper County Website, as well as posting in the window of the Conservation Office so that they notice can be seen by the public, even when the office is locked *and* that, if requested, the board will serve notice to media outlets of any public meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ASHTON PARK HOUSE DEMOLIOTION BIDS- ACTION 26-83.** Herbold opening and read aloud the sealed bids for the demolition of the house at Ashton Park: Eric Harder bid \$8,500, Earth Works Inc (EWI) bid \$4,800, Bailey Excavating bid \$7,500, and Sully Construction bid \$9,750. Motion by Stone second by Nearmyer to approve the low bid from Earth Works Inc (EWI) bid for \$4,800 for the demolition of the Ashton Park House. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF GEISLER-PENQUITE LAND STEWARDSHIP LAB BID-ACTION 26-84.** Board members reviewed the bids received at the special meeting held on 1/8/26. The low bidder, Graphite Construction, withdrew their bid of \$600,093 stating the bid was improperly calculated. The next low bid was from GTG Construction in the amount of \$680,000. GTG Construction has submitted all required documentation. Motion by Yeager, second by Nearmyer to accept the bid from GTG Construction in the amount of \$680,000 for the Geisler-Penquite Land Stewardship Lab. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF GEISLER-PENQUITE LAND STEWARDSHIP LAB CONTRACT-ACTION 26-85.** Board members reviewed the contract from GTG Construction for the Geisler- Penquite Lab. Van Zante has submitted this to the county attorney to review, as well. Motion by Stone, second by Nearmyer to approve the Contract from GTG Construction for the construction of the Geisler-Penquite Land Stewardship Lab. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CATERPILLAR MINI EXCAVATOR PURCHASE- ACTION 26-86.** The purchase of the mini excavator was presented at the budget hearing for the conservation board. This piece of equipment will replace the tractor and backhoe that were sold at a Purple Wave auction last year. Staff presented several options including a used Bobcat, new Bobcat, and the Caterpillar. Board of Supervisors requested staff move forward with the Caterpillar 305 mini excavator purchase in the amount of \$86,600.53 from Zeigler, Inc. Motion by Stone, second by Yeager to approve the purchase of the Caterpillar 305 mini excavator purchase in the amount of \$86,600.53 from Zeigler Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSERVATION STAFF SALARY DISCREPANCY- ACTION 26-87.** Van Zante discussed the salary discrepancy between the park officer and maintenance techs that had been created over the years. Both positions do

similar work, and the park officer is asked to work weekends as well. The park officer salary for the upcoming fiscal year will be \$77,434, while the maintenance tech pay (with longevity) is \$82,617. Motion by Stone, second by Yeager to move the park officer to Range 16, Step 4 at \$82,357. Motion carried unanimously.

**Other.** Stone would like to see the Conservation board become more involved in hosting IWILL meetings and participating in IWILL activities in 2026.

**Board Member Concerns.** Herbold requested that the March meeting be held at the new nature center.

**ADJOURNMENT- ACTION 26-88.** With no further business appearing, motion by Stone second by Yeager that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT - 9:10 a.m.**

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Thad Nearmyer, Secretary