

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held January 8, 2025 at the Board's office. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair, Randy McNutt.

Board members present included Randy McNutt, Jane Stimson and Mark Marriott. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens. Absent was Danielle Miller.

Present as a guest was Joyce Kruse.

Approve Agenda: Marriott moved, Stimson seconded, to approve the Agenda for January 8, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Approve Minutes: Stimson moved, Marriott seconded, to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2024 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims from mid-month December and month-end December were presented for review. Valley News claim for \$598.60 for publishing of the new rules and regulations was questioned and the \$785.72 for park supplies at Pierce Creek, with explanations on expenditures given. Marriott moved, Stimson seconded, to approve the Claims as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Spunaugle provided the Board an update on ARPA funding and that through conversations with the Board of Supervisors she was able to secure additional funding of \$20,000 to put towards the NVP road project and \$25,000 to build new kiosks in the campgrounds. Total funding from ARPA was \$145,000.00. She indicated she and the road contractor has talked and will talk again in March about the road work, but we are on the schedule with Manatt's in the spring.

Joyce Kruse asked the Board if there was going to be funding for the equestrian area at Pierce Creek for next fiscal. The answer was not per just the equestrian but in the Pierce Creek line item for the total area. She then inquired about liability insurance coverage for her rides. Back Country Horsemen sponsored their work days. Spunaugle asked for clarification on why they need insurance coverage to have rides and activities. If the county has no coverage, then there would be no activities. Marriott said to not any have sponsored activities except using Pony Express or Back Country Horsemen. Joyce explained that her rides bring in revenue which goes to the Board. She wanted to know why there is no coverage on horse rides and activities like a poker ride. Pony Express sponsors rides with insurance coverage, but they keep the donated monies. It was suggested to visit with the Auditor's office about what kind of liability does PCCB have and bring it back to the Board for the March meeting for discussion.

Election of Officers then proceeded. McNutt nominated Marriott for Chair, Stimson seconded, Motion carried. For the position of Vice-Chair, Marriott nominated Stimson, seconded by McNutt. Motion carried. For the position of Board Secretary, Stimson nominated Miller,

seconded by McNutt. Motion carried. Election of Officers for 2025 is as follows; Marriott - Chair, Vice Chair – Stimson and Board Secretary – Miller.

A review of the By-laws, PPE policy, and motor vehicle usage policy then ensued. The By-laws were discussed; as amended February 11, 2020 – Article VII (Section 7.4) Expenditure of funds – at that time the Director was authorized to make purchases of up to \$1,000 without board approval. Spunaugle indicated that \$1,000 was not enough for purchases with a minimum of \$5,000.00 and outlined some examples. Mark indicated that \$2,500 might be a good medium.

Motion: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded, to raise the limit to \$2,500 for spending without board approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Section 3.1 – Article III – Meetings. Regular meetings of the Page County Conservation Board shall be held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. This day and time shall be changed by a consensus of the Board.

Motion: McNutt moved, seconded by Stimson, to move the meeting from the 2nd Tuesday to the 1st Wednesday and leave the time remaining at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

No other changes were noted.

The PPE policy was reviewed. Suggestions from the Board were to invest in hearing protection and safety glasses. No other changes were noted.

The County Owned Motor Vehicle Usage policy was reviewed. Chair Marriott read thru the policy as stated.

Motion: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded, that no changes were noted in the motor vehicle usage policy. Motion carried.

Motion: Stimson moved, McNutt seconded, to approve necessary amendments to the By-laws and to accept the other policies as presented.

The bid for 5 kiosks from Roush Construction was then discussed. This is monies coming from ARPA funding.

Motion: Stimson moved to allow Roush Construction to work on the kiosks following a discussion about the work to be done providing they can do the work but not 100% locked in if they can't fulfill their obligations and to have the job satisfactorily completed. McNutt abstained from voting. Motion died for lack of a second. Any further construction from Roush Construction will be taken under advisement.

Working on the 2025-2026 budget, Spunaugle distributed the budget expenditures, revenue and REAP budget and explained to the board what she done with the changes she had made. An appointment will be made to meet with the Board of Supervisors to go over the budget. We are

still waiting on information for insurance and wages before finalization of the budget. No action was taken.

Directors updates included the following:

- Mike is almost finished cleaning out the shop at Pierce, he has found many items that will be useful that we didn't realize we had so I am starting an inventory on everything we own.
- I would like to move the porta pot from the campground at Rapp over to Ross by the new shelter and remove the porta pot by the west entrance to Rapp Park. We can also remove the porta pot at the Pierce dam if people really need to use the restroom they can go up to the one located by our shop or drive over to the pit toilet at the shelter. That bill is outrageously high and costing us almost \$10,000 a year. We need to start building more pit toilets in these parks to offset that expense.
- I got my pesticide license.
- Cut down 15 trees at Nodaway and working on closing dangerous and unmaintainable trails and unnecessary loops in the trail system behind the campground.
- Got the new Facebook page up and running so make sure to like and follow and let all your friends know. I am also working on a new website, just need to figure out pricing and make sure the information is historically and presently correct.
- Have started looking at grants for a new shower house at Pioneer and possible pit toilet at Nodaway.
- Went to Omaha and got fitted for my ballistic vest which should be here sometime in February and purchased other basic equipment for duty along with my duty gun.

Motion: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting then adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next meeting will be February 19, 2025.

APPROVED: February 19, 2025

Chair Mark Mauhoff

Secretary Jane Stimson

A special meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at the Board's office. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Danielle Miller, Jane Stimson and Randy McNutt. Also present was Director Spunaugle.

Approve Agenda: McNutt moved, Miller seconded, to approve the Agenda for January 15, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

There were no public comments.

Spunaugle presented the 2025/2026 budget worksheets to the Board. She indicated that the health insurance and dental line increases have been adjusted and are now correct and is waiting on wage increase information. She reviewed how she compressed some line items by combining them. She also put in for a law enforcement vehicle for \$42,000.00. She presented the revenue and REAP budget with no changes occurring. There was general discussion on budget concerns relating to motor vehicle, motor vehicle maintenance, grants, dredging equipment and work on Pioneer Park pond. Spunaugle outlined her goals on getting a better shower house at Pioneer and a pit toilet installed at Nodaway.

Motion: Stimson moved, Miller seconded, to approve the 2025/2026 budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on wages and hours for the seasonal crew. A review of current financials would allow for an hourly increase beginning April 15th.

Motion: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded to approve the seasonal employees wage rate effective Spring 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Board communication centered on searching for availability of grants with numerous foundations and companies cited.

Motion: McNutt moved, seconded by Stimson to adjourn. Motion carried.

Approved: February 19, 2025

Chair Mark Marriott

Secretary Jane Stimson

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at the Board's office. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Randy McNutt, Jane Stimson and Mark Marriott. Absent was Danielle Miller. Present also was staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

Present as guests were Joyce Kruse, Rick Rivers, Larry Shum and Zachary James.

Approve Agenda: Stimson moved to approve the agenda for February 19th, 2025. Board Member McNutt was concerned about the review of the board member applications, after a discussion on the matter, McNutt seconded. Motion carried.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Approve Minutes: Stimson moved, McNutt seconded, to approve the Minutes of January 8 and January 15, 2025 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims from Mid-month January, End-month January and Mid-month February were reviewed with high end expenditures explained. End-Month January's bill at Rapp for electricity read \$1624 which should have been \$16.24. Motion by Stimson, seconded by McNutt to approve the claims as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Joyce Kruse indicated to the Board that they had reformed an equestrian committee consisting of Deb Ratliff, Judith Blay and herself. There are monies of \$893 that has come in from donations, etc. being held in Conservation Reserve that is available for the purchase of gates to make/repair some of the horse pens. Height was discussed and will have to go to the sites and see what might work better., Marriott suggested 6-foot gates. She mentioned about the workday on May 3rd with a rain date of May 10, 2025. NATRIC ride at Pierce Creek is scheduled for May 17th and 18th.

A review of the board member applications then took place with Rick Rivers, Larry Shum and Zachary James. Each spoke briefly about their background and their desire to serve on the board. The Conservation Board will contact the Board of Supervisors to make a recommendation and the appointment to the Board will come from that. Chair Marriott indicated that all three candidates would be good choices. A further discussion on park expansion, management of facilities, youth activities, fundraising, and social media marketing took place.

Spunaugle presented two mower bids for discussion. Both bids are from John Deere. 1st bid for a Z950M Ztrak mower for \$10,050.00 and second mower bid for \$9,250.00 of the same kind. 2 older mowers are being used to trade-in.

Motion: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded, to proceed with the acquisition of the 2 mowers.

Motion passed unanimously.

Spunaugle presented a bid from Poor Boyz sanitation company to acquire 6 new trash dumpsters for a total price of \$4,500.00. Discussion then went to which companies to service our parks. Consensus of the board was to get quotes from the companies.

Motion: Stimson moved, McNutt seconded, to purchase the dumpsters as quoted. Motion carried.

Spunaugle presented a bid from Beery Construction for the demolition of the pit latrine at Nodaway Valley Park for \$4,500.00. The structure is falling apart and is a safety hazard as it stands.

Motion: Stimson moved, McNutt seconded, to approve the demolition of the pit latrine at NVP for the price quoted. Funding will come from SW IA Foundation grant that is designated for use at the park.

Director's notes included the following:

- Got the first brush pile burned at Nodaway and almost have it built up again to burn again. With the warm weather coming I will be working on moving brush again.
- Created an inventory list for all signs that we have.
- When we had warm weather at the end of January, I began cutting trees on the Pierce timber trail again to widen that out.
- Windows have been replaced at office.
- Applied for a grant at the shower house at Pioneer, \$50,000.
- Budget meeting was on Feb. 7th and have been working with BOS about possible new truck for law enforcement.

There was no board communication.

Motion: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED: March 5, 2025

Chair Mark McNutt

Secretary Ann Miller

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at the Board's office. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Zachary James, Randy McNutt, Jane Stimson, Danielle Miller and Mark Marriott. Also present was staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

Approve Agenda: McNutt moved, Miller seconded, to approve the Agenda for March 5, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Approve Minutes: McNutt moved, James seconded, to approve the Minutes of February 19, 2025 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims of month-end February were reviewed with high end expenditures explained. Miller moved, McNutt seconded, to approve the Claims as submitted. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

Discussion on quotes for sanitation services was then held.

Poor Boyz, Villisca – Service at NVP 4x per month - \$100 and service the office 2x a month - \$45.00. Total quote was \$145.00.

TCA Sanitation, Shenandoah – Pierce North – 1x week April 1st – November 1st - \$85.00

Pierce Equestrian – 2x per month April 1st-November 1st - \$65.00

Rapp – 1x per week – April 1st- November 1st - \$85.00

Pioneer – 1x per week – April 1st – November 1st - \$85.00 – Total quote \$320.00.

Southwest Sanitation, Clarinda – Service April- November 1x per week for 7 months at NVP And office for 12 months every other week. Total quote \$955.00

Motion: McNutt moved, James seconded, to accept the quotes from Southwest Sanitation of Clarinda in the amount of \$955 and TCA Sanitation of Shenandoah in the amount of \$320.00. and have them provide trash service. Motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Kruse was not present, but Board Chair Marriott presented the items on her behalf. Rides/workdays are as stated in February minutes were May 3rd with a rain date of May 10th. The NATRIC ride is scheduled for May 17th and 18th. The entryway grant would be funded with a grant for trees coming into the equestrian area. Joyce will contact Michelle to discuss the grant. Joyce would like another set of mounting blocks installed.

The Director notes included the following:

- All the big stuff is cleaned up at NVP. I still have about 6 trees I'd like to get cut down before the camping season starts but that will be weather dependent and whether will be able to get the tractor back to Nodaway again.

- Mike is going to start working on the road at Rapp next week, so we will have to move the tractor back to Pierce so he can get the blade on it.
- I got a call from JD about a bush hog they would like to give to us since they cannot sell it on auction. Mike and I went and looked at it and it is quite bigger than the one we have so we will be picking that up in a couple of weeks and seeing if our tractor can handle it.
- Finally passed my last pesticide test so I can now also spray the office and our other public buildings for bugs.
- Had a meeting with Becca, the Wabash Trace director, about the project they have to connect to Rapp Park. Not a whole lot to talk about but I told her we would get adequate signs made for directions to our trails to the rest of the park. (Miscellaneous discussion on other aspects of Rapp Park were from the Board).
- Took the hunter education instructor training last week, just waiting to hear back about that process.
- We had our district meeting last Thursday in Fremont County at Waubonsie state park. There was a very good turnout and talked about updates throughout the county conservation board system.
- Connie Cade stopped to show me a sign idea that she can get through the Lake of 3 Fires manager for trail entrance signs at Pierce which I think are a great idea to remind everyone some of the basic rules of using public trails, but I'm wondering if we would need to get them made ourselves so that people do not confuse our park with the state park system.

Trails were discussed at length including the mapping of the trails and closure of some of the loops and widening of timber trails. The Board would need to approve which ones needed to be closed and signage installed.

Board communication included some work at Ross Park (have a spring board meeting there) to look at road conditions and overall park conditions, talked about seasonal help, frisbee golf course and questions about the gun range from Board member Zachary James. He had questions about forming a shooting range committee to re-open the gun range. It was suggested to have someone else bring the committee ideas to the Board. The committee would have to provide their own insurance coverage and there are concerns on liability. Membership and fundraising were also discussed.

Motion: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED: April 2, 2025

Chair

Mark Maniatt

Secretary

Jane Stimson

A special meeting was held at Pioneer Park on Thursday, March 13, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Jane Stimson.

Board members present included Jane Stimson, Zachary James, Randy McNutt, Danielle Miller and by phone was Mark Marriott. Also present were Spunaugle and Stevens.

Approve Agenda: McNutt moved, James seconded, to approve the Agenda for March 13, 2025. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Discussion took place on the location of a proposed new shower house. The Director had met with the county sanitarian on the septic system and will need to have a perc test done to determine feasibility. Several locations were mentioned but Spunaugle would like to place the new shower house more in the middle of the top of the campground which makes it more accessible to the campers. Some dirt work will need to be completed to make it more handicapped accessible with a sidewalk. The second proposed location was east of the bordering row of shrubs which is not as level and there is seepage of water coming down from the hill. Additional groundwork would have to be completed to make it more level and the removal of many trees. Randy McNutt then left the meeting. She has received a grant for \$51,000 to place towards the construction of the shower house and two bids while waiting on a third bid to come in. James and Stimson thought that the centrally located shower house would be more convenient for the campers. Marriott suggested that she seek out more grants and check on bids for the additional ground work.

Motion: Marriott moved, Miller seconded, to table the discussion until the April board meeting during which Spunaugle will have more information on the plans for the shower house. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Marriott moved, Miller seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting then adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Approved: April 2, 2025

Chair Mark Marriott
Secretary Jane Stimson

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at the Board's office. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair, Mark Marriott.

Board members present included Zachary James, Randy McNutt, Jane Stimson, Mark Marriott and Danielle Miller via phone. Also present were staff, Spunaugle and Stevens.

Present as visitors included Connie Cade, Judith Blay, Larry Lock, Deb Ratliff, Joyce Kruse, Joe Cason, Larry Shum, Bill Greenleaf, Marshall Brown, Alan Mortimore, Darin Sunderman, Christy Majors and Jeff Eshelman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Approve Agenda: McNutt moved, Stimson seconded, to approve the Agenda for April 2, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes: Stimson moved, McNutt seconded, to approve the Minutes of March 5th and March 13th, 2025 as submitted. Stimson indicated she liked having the Director's notes. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims of March 5th and March 19th were then reviewed. High end expenditures were explained. James moved, Stimson seconded, to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried.

Public comments were heard from Judith Blay regarding hiking the trails at NVP. She said many of the trails have been blocked off and are they closed to hikers too? - the Director indicated that some of the trail system is unsafe and was unable to get UTV down the trails in question, right now it is enter at your own risk. Larry Lock said that the trails doesn't have any signage, the Director indicated that the trail map is located at the kiosk. Mr. Lock thought the signage could be better marked in proximity to the trails and more communication with the public on trail closures.

Darin Sunderman, County Sanitarian, discussed with the Board about the percolation test that had been completed at Pioneer Park in relationship to the proposed shower house location. The perc test was done in far NW corner. For the current number of 12 sites, it would require a 2000-gallon septic tank and 500 ft. of laterals to bring it into compliance with state code and most feasible at this time. If nothing changes then nothing would need to be done until there is expansion. The 2nd location with the water issue was discussed but it has problems and would require a different and more expensive type of system. Board member McNutt inquired into how close the new system would be to the old system and the feasibility of adding a parking lot where the current system is. Marriott asked if the \$51,000 grant be used towards refurbishing the current shower house and bringing it up to code? Marriott would like to see the Minutes where there was permission given to build a new shower house. (Director stated she had approached the board in the fall about a new shower house, looked for grants and obtained some bids with no feedback from the board so she continued with it). Marriott stated that the Board still needed to approve the shower house; to which the Director stated it is on the agenda for discussion. There

was discussion on making a down slope or moving the parking lot closer and making it ADA compliant. James commented on the slope of the existing location and it being inaccessible to wheelchairs, etc. McNutt indicated that more planning needed to be done, and consulting with a contractor onsite to explain what is needed.

Motion: McNutt moved to table the shower house location at Pioneer, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

Motion: Stimson moved to table the shower house bids and all activities related to it, seconded by James. Motion carried.

Director Spunaugle then discussed the maps about the trail closures at Nodaway and Pierce Creek due to them being unsafe and to make the trails flow better. She identified the trouble areas (the ones in black are unsafe at NVP). She discussed about a trail evaluation and what is needed to repair the trails. She identified damage on the trails. She then read a prepared statement. Stimson remarked that some of the trails had been closed at least 5 -10 years ago that she had walked years previously. Miller asked if the Director had a professional go out and look at the trails before she blocked them off, Director replied she was the professional. McNutt indicated it would be a board decision to close the trails. Marriott described the trails he walked at Pierce Creek and the issues he found.

Motion: McNutt moved to adjourn the meeting due to the attitude of the Director, seconded by Miller. Stimson and James opposed the motion, motion then failed. The Chair made the decision not to adjourn the meeting due to the number of visitors in attendance to discuss the gun range. It was then discussed to postpone any more closure of trails until the Board has a clearer understanding of the trails and the things being cut out and to recommend beginning clearing the trails and removing the brush already there and provide more communication to the Board. Stimson remarked that it would be good to have board members go and look at the trails. James thought it should be soon. Chairman stated he would like to have public look at the trails and offer feedback as to which trails are used and which ones aren't. The Board consensus was temporary closures are acceptable, permanent closures are not. There needs to be trail signage at the main entrance stating, "trails are closed." Unidentified speaker said the Director had pointed out safety hazards on some trails and the Board told her she couldn't close them brings up liability issues.

Discussion was then begun by Joe Cason on the Pierce Creek shooting range. *"I am here as the chairman for the Pierce Creek Shooting Range Committee to speak to you about the decision to open the Pierce Creek Shooting Range to the public and to submit to each of you copies of the old Standard Operating Procedure with the revisions voted on by the committee and a new SOP for Pierce Creek Shooting Range for your examination, discussion, revision and approval".*

On March 25th a meeting was held at the Shenandoah Veteran's hall where a large crowd of men and women attended. Opening the range was discussed with unanimous approval.

A meeting was scheduled for the evening of March 28th at 6 p.m. where the Pierce Creek Shooting Range committee of fourteen men and women was formed, and a chairman, assistant chairman, secretary, and treasurer was elected.

Following the committee's creation, it examined the document, "Page County Conservation Standard Operating Procedure" for the Pierce Creek Shooting Range which was adopted on July 12, 2016.

Ten suggestions were discussed, voted on and approved by the committee for submission to this board for your consideration tonight.

The focus of Pierce Creek Shooting Range's new leadership,

is first to maintain a zero tolerance for unsafe practices by following our predecessor's example AT the range, and by making "real world" additional safety decisions for the range such as utilizing gun racks for firearms not in use, chamber safety flags, and new fence signs placed at proper distances.

And our second focus, is to bring friendly, safe firearms training to the women of our region. Classes for women by women have been proven to be extremely effective at eliminating the ignorance and fear that many novice shooters experiences.

We have identified 6 certified Range Safety Officers, 19 additional candidates who are ready to take the two-day course this month and we have 15 Chief Range Safety Officer candidates signed up and ready to take the course and be certified.

With safety being our main goal, we look forward to working with you in humility, respecting your authority with obedience and compliance to every rule that you bring before us, and communicating to you any decisions made by the committee before any actions are adopted.

We were then directed to Page 25, Section D of the Revision Log and a description of revisions made is as follows.

- 1. Pg. 1. Date to be changed to the new date of adoption.*
- 2. Pg. 6. "Hours of Operation" changed to say, the range will be open Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to one hour before sunset excluding posted reservations, and closures due to inclement weather, or the inability to properly supply RSO's which will be posted on the organization's Facebook page 24 hours prior to opening. The range will not necessarily be open seven days each week. The hours will be set by a vote of the range committee. The flexibility to open and close the range due to inclement weather, sickness of range officers, etc. should be under the control of the range committee rather than constantly contacting the conservation board over such a trivial matter.*
Board member Marriott expressed that it was a problem in that previously wasn't opened on the days it was to be open and with no communication from the range committee. He didn't think that Monday thru Sunday hours would fly. He has discussed with the

Auditor about insurance and the liability concerns if this were to go through. To allow this according to the insurance, a conservation board member would have to be in attendance at any time while it is opened, and Zach would have to be exempt from the gun range due to conflict of interest. Marriott would not be available to volunteer his time to be at the range and was concerned about the liability issues coming back on him should there be a problem. Mr. Cason also quoted statistics on gun and horse related accidents, (did not receive a copy for the Minutes). Questions arose about board members being on site during an equestrian event, same as with the gun range committee, if the range is open a board member would have to be onsite for the liability insurance to be covered, same as in equestrian special events. Marriott expressed to Cason that he wasn't coming at him about the gun people versus the equestrian people and it is strictly a liability clause required by the insurance company, we would have to have a board member onsite during the activity to ensure that the policies and procedures were being followed according to our insurance agent or we are not in compliance. James asked for clarification on when a board member needed to be there – like every time the range is open or just when special events are going on? Marriott stressed that any time the range is open, for example from 2 to 6 p.m., a board member would need to be there. Anytime the range is open by the committee then a board member must be there to meet Page County's liability coverage to cover them. James had talked with the county insurance representative and according to Nordland, "as long as the SOP was followed, liability would be covered under the county insurance." James expressed the difference between normal range operation and special events. McNutt expressed that the current SOP is null and void due to the board closing the range to the public with it only being available for hunter safety and law enforcement use. James read the prior liability waiver that was used to become a member of the range. Unidentified speaker asked if Hunter Safety had a board member at the range? Marriott replied not at this time. Stimson remarked that we would need insurance information in writing to see where it came from and for clarification. Christy Majors reiterated that she wanted to add education and teach women gun safety. Marriott expressed again about his concerns of someone being injured and it coming back on one of the board members. McNutt questioned where the closest shooting range is located, and Mr. Cason said we're in a gun range desert. Unidentified speaker commented that there are several first responders on the committee and question arose as to the ability to treat an injured person and being liable in doing so. Deb Ratliff, an equestrian park user, asked if the range was to be re-opened would the committee use the days and hours as previously used. Ms. Majors asked why the range would be limited to use while the horse people can ride anytime. Bill Greenleaf expressed his concerns on liability that the proposed standards for the range are set by state and federal guidelines, that aren't being brought into the conversation. Mr. Cason asked if the Board wanted to table the item and find out about the insurance coverage. Marriott expressed that this is a new board and new gun range committee. Larry Shum asked if the Board knew how many other 98 counties had gun ranges where a board member had to be present? Unidentified speaker talked about active shooting and his involvement with training church members on gun safety. Stimson said she wanted to

hear the rest of the presentation on the changes. Mr. Cason then continued with the changes made to the SOP.

3. Pg. 7. "Certification" line 1 Changed to - Individual membership \$35 per year and family at \$50 per year.
4. Pg. 7. "Certification" line 3 to include – all members of the immediate household under the age of 25
5. Pg. 7. "Certification" to include on last line following "address". All non-members will be charged \$15 for a one-day pass after passing certification.
6. Pg. 8. "Certified shooters: to be included on last line following "reserved". Only if RSO's are present.
7. Pg. 10. #21 Change to Clay pigeons are not allowed on the property of Pierce Creek Shooting Range by anyone at any time until a certified trap or skeet range has been constructed.
8. Pg. 10. #22 Change to – During heavy range usage there will be a 2-hour rotating time limit. Shooters may return to the firing line after those who are waiting have their turn.
9. Pg. 10. #23 Change to Page County Conservation reserves the right to suspend usage of the shooting range for a stated cause, and for a stated specified period.
10. Pg. 11. #3 A new sign is needed for the front entrance and metal signs need to be posted on the barbed wire fence surrounding the range.

Mr. Cason expressed the idea of getting the range opened to start training and safety. Marriott stated he fully supports a gun range, although he can't support it being in a county area and the liability concerns.

Stimson mentioned that the committee should contact the Auditor's office about the insurance coverage. Mr. Cason indicated contacting the Auditor and insurance company, McNutt indicated that the county attorney should be contacted as well. James reiterated that they will be holding range safety officer classes to get several individuals certified and invited the other board members.

Motion: Motion entered by McNutt to table the gun range shooting committee's request to open the range, seconded by Stimson. Motion carried unanimously.

Board then took a break at 8:20 p.m.

Board meeting resumed at 8:25 p.m.

Joyce Kruse then indicated that the gates had been re-hung in the pens, the mounting block is being built and needs to be placed in the primitive area. She asked about "designated equestrian camping only" sign. Board Member James referred to Chapter 350.4, Section 7, and read a portion about board shall not allow the exclusive use of a park by one or more organizations. Example of usage was then given for each Pierce Creek campground regarding the horses. Joyce asked about cleanup of weeds, inside the fence portion at the large sign, Michelle said she would look at it. Where are the benches that were donated to the equestrian area? Zach indicated that there is at least one in the gun range area. She inquired about obtaining a grant to build a shelter house for the north campground – Director said no as it wasn't in the 5-year plan. Marriott thanked Kruse for the offer. Marriott indicated a shelter house would be needed but we need to finish up other projects first. Joyce also mentioned about needing more gravel in the equestrian campground, graveled to be leveled in the primitive area, something done about the manure pile and projects for work days. Connie Cade inquired into the workdays coming up and what projects they might be working on?

Director's notes were as follows:

Got all the trees cleaned up at Nodaway and will be burning the last burn pile from that project tomorrow since the burn ban was lifted. Now I just need to rent a stump grinder to finish that project and fill the holes with dirt.

Got all the new site posts installed.

Fixed picnic tables at each park about 40 boards needed replaced.

Rapp has new gravel on it, about 385 tons. We will get the tractor over there hopefully by the end of next week, so he can work out some of the bad spots with the blade, so we can then see how much more it needs then we will move to Ross Park.

Had hunter's ed last week for 3 nights and that went very well, everyone passed!

They started tearing the pit toilet down at Nodaway yesterday and will finish as soon as it dries back out.

Board communication included Jane @ Rapp Area with grandchildren and snow geese viewing, Zach mentioned about the playground and the addition of gravel looks amazing, Jane and Randy mentioned about the flowers blooming at Pioneer Park. Zach thanked the board for listening to the gun range committee's ideas.

Randy commented on the conflict of interest with Zach being a board member and involvement with the gun range and/or solicitation of training from gun businesses, Zach mentioned it was not intentional on his part. Marriott still concerned with liability issues with the range and other avenues that could be pursued. Unidentified speaker talked about Scott County's gun range which is managed by the county, and the need for a gun range for training in our county.

Motion: James moved, and McNutt seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting then adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved: May 7, 2025

Chair _____

Secretary _____

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at the equestrian shelter at Pierce Creek Recreation Area.

Board members present included Mark Marriott, Jane Stimson and Zachary James. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens. Absent were McNutt and Miller.

Visitors present included Connie Cade, Larry Shum, Deb Ratliff, Ethan Hewett, Dakota Van, MaKenna Cason, Conner Cason, Joe Cason, Parrish Ellis, Alan Mortimore, Jeff Eshelman, Rick Rivers, Lorraine Tillman, Victor Cox, Linda Wagoner, Steve Wagoner, Pat Victor, Michelle Jordan, Judith Blay, Larry Lock, Peg Carraher, and Marshall Brown.

Board Member Zachary James submitted a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement, which read as follows:

Board Members,

I am submitting this statement to ensure full transparency regarding my ownership of Mort's Gun Shop, which sells firearms and related equipment. As a member of the Page County Conservation Board, I have been an advocate for expanding safe and responsible shooting opportunities in our community, including opening the currently closed to the public shooting range.

While my business is related to the firearms industry, I do not stand to gain any direct financial benefit from the range itself. My support for this initiative is rooted in the belief that providing a controlled and supervised environment for firearm owners promotes safety, education, and responsible gun ownership. Expanding public access to the range would give the community a designated space for lawful shooting activities, reducing the risks associated with informal or unsafe alternatives.

As a board member, my responsibility is to act in the best interest of the organization and the community we serve. I believe my participation in discussions and voting on this matter aligns with that responsibility. However, I remain open to any policies or guidelines the board may adopt to ensure transparency and fairness in the decision-making process.

I appreciate the opportunity to be part of this important project and welcome any discussion to further clarify my position. Please let me know if additional information is needed.

*Sincerely,
Zachary James*

Board Chair Marriott asked if this had been run by the county attorney and the insurance company regarding the policies and procedures review. He indicated that the gun range opening would not be voted on tonight at this meeting. The Director indicated she had received an email from the insurance company about the 100% liability coverage on the gun range if the policies and procedures were followed.

He then called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Approve Agenda: Stimson moved, James seconded, to approve the Agenda for May 7, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes: James moved, Stimson seconded, to approve the Minutes of April 2, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims of April 2nd, 16th and the 30th were presented for review. High end expenditures were tagged with an explanation. Stimson moved, James seconded, to approve the Claims as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comment period included some of the following: Rick Rivers said the park looked really nice. Larry Lock had volunteered to work on trails at Pierce Creek and cited lack of management and why was the group was charged \$30 to utilize the cabin since they were volunteering. Chair Marriott indicated the fee should be returned. Judith Blay commented that the trails are still blocked on the loops at NVP. Unidentified speaker asked if the blockages were going to be removed, Marriott indicated that there be no closing of any trails and the blockages would be removed.

Joe Cason, representing the gun range committee, distributed a follow up statement to the previous meeting. It reads as follows: *Last month I submitted to this board five copies of a statement and the old Pierce Creek shooting range SOP highlighting and listing the changes to that old SOP which our committee voted on and accepted. I also submitted the updated SOP in its entirety, at that time, we discussed three objections to the range being reopened.*

1. *The old PCSR committee did not man the range efficiently. The Conservation Board had received complaints due to the range not being manned from a Nebraskan and it made the Conservation Board look bad.*

There were very few men volunteering to man the range at that time. We now have almost a dozen certified chief range officers, and eighteen range officers who are ready to become certified.

2. *There was some fear of financial liability. The legal doctrine of "Sovereign Immunity" comes into play here. This legal doctrine basically states that the government ("the sovereign") is immune from liability (can't be held accountable in court). Generally, a government official or employee will be immune from liability so long as their conduct did not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights that a reasonable government employee should know. Additionally, should sovereign immunity not cover the violation, the counties liability insurance should cover that public official.*
3. *Someone from the board of conservation would have to be present at the range every moment it was open. This is not a requirement of any of the other 5655 firearm range's nationwide.*

The discussion was tabled at the last meeting until we found answers to the three objections. We believe we are ready for the board to reopen Pierce Creek Shooting Range so that we can begin the process of cleaning and preparing the range. All further additions or changes to the SOP can be made according to the Conservation Board's schedule.

Discussion then followed. Mr. Cason indicated that the committee had 150 signatures toward the membership and indicated that there is money, and enough votes to open the range. Marriott asked if the Board didn't vote to open the range how did that violate any constitutional rights or the 2nd amendment? Mr. Cason responded – it's the only option in this county. Where do people go to practice guns in a safe manner in Page County? He discussed the 2nd amendment and the militia and the right for 18-60 years being able to find a safe place to practice. Would like the range opened and prepared before the next meeting. The help to clean and maintain the range would come from the membership. On the Shen/Essex Facebook page there was a survey about reopening the range, with an overwhelming 143-20 with written documentation indicated by Jeff Eshelman and the ability to generate revenue.

What is the main objective not opening it as public range in the park? Has the county attorney's opinion been sought? Are they having rights violated? Who is complaining – BOS, other officials? Marriott indicated the past history of the range makes it an objective to not opening the range and would like the county attorney present at a meeting to see if the board is violating any one's constitutional rights.

Joe Cason asked what days work for the horse people to have their time? A new SOP has been written and they would like approval of the updated SOP, to go in and clean up the range and bring it back to the Board to vote to reopen the range to clean it up to prepare it for use. Marriott indicated they should work with the Director on getting in to begin to clean it up.

Board Vice Chair Stimson asked about clay pigeon shooting and some of the changes in the SOP which were clarified. Cason indicated that it would be up the Board to determine a schedule. Would there be any way that the horse people would be satisfied if the gun range was opened? Marriott wanted to know if there was any other place in the county for the gun people to establish a place to shoot? Marriott expressed concerns that Pierce Creek is an active park with lots of activity going on and is a big concern.

A vote to re-open the range and approval of SOP then ensued. Director Spunaugle then read an email received from the county's insurance representative, this is as follows: Michelle and Kristin, I wanted to send you both an email regarding the gun range at Pierce Creek. I have been receiving direct communications from so many people about the insurance or lack of coverage for the gun range that I have lost count. Today I finally declined to answer questions from one of the board members and I may not have been pleasant about it. Every time one of these folks has called my office the story seems to get more twisted including the things I have said to them in the past. I want to be very clear on this part: I spoke with Janis Hochreiter, Senior Risk Consultant with ICAP today regarding the gun range. Janis has visited the gun range in the past and she reviewed the policies and procedures for the operation of the gun range previously. Just as I have stated in all my phone conversations and Janis confirmed if those policies and

procedures are followed 100% ICAP WILL COVER THE LIABILITY at the Pierce Creek gun range. Janis has also offered to come here and discuss the issue if she is needed. I have unfortunately gotten to a point where I'm going to have to say that I will only discuss this issue further with the two of you and nobody else unless I'm directed to by one of you. There are just too many people with agendas that are involved. I don't like to have to put restrictions on but that this is how it has to be. Please let me know if you have questions.
Pete Stansbury

Stimson would like to see the parks used more and is willing to reopen the range with the option that the Conservation Board could shut it down for a good cause, seconded by James. All in favor and motion passed by a 2-1 vote. Chair Marriott thought the vote should be contingent on James' disclosure letter being ran by the County Attorney for review. Marriott did not vote.

A request to dedicate the equestrian campground as the Joyce Kruse Memorial Equestrian Campground was discussed in honor of Joyce's commitment in making the area what it is today.

Motion: Stimson moved to dedicate the equestrian campground as the Joyce Kruse Memorial Equestrian Campground, seconded by James. All in favor and motion carried. At some point, the committee would like to place a plaque funded by the memorial monies. There will be a time set aside by the equestrian committee to schedule a formal dedication.

Memorial trees for Joyce – The Kruse family wish to plant flowering trees, possibly flowering crabapples, using memorial funds. Remaining memorial funds will be used to possibly buy a bench, a sign or a plaque with a dedication to Joyce. The Kruse family wishes any funds turned over to the Conservation be spent only with prior approval from, or any request from, the equestrian committee. Earl May will plant the trees.

Motion: Stimson moved to support the equestrian committee's request on fund expenditures and to take care of the remaining funds as requested, seconded by James. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jessica Niskin presented a proposal for Pierce Creek Lake Biochar restoration project. The one-season pilot lake restoration project will treat Pierce Creek using a safe, inoculated micronized biochar formula designed to reduce algae, bind excess nutrients, and restore water quality. Biochar is a natural, chemical-free material made from clean carbon. The approach is safe for all aquatic life, pets and humans. The goals are to restore, clarify to algae-affected zones, bind nitrogen and phosphorus, improve fish and habitat health, and demonstrate scalable, eco-safe treatment. The treatment is approximately 40 acres, duration of the treatment is May-September 2025 with 4 zones for the inflow, algae, channel and the deep basin. These treatment zones are outlined in the handout provided and is attached in the Minutes. She is asking for board approval to treat the lake in 2025 at no cost to the county and will provide a one-page visual summary of results by fall. Board members thought it would be a worthwhile project.

There was discussion on the resignation of Randy McNutt and the Board was notified during the meeting that Danielle Miller has also resigned from the Conservation Board.

Motion: Stimson moved to accept the resignations of Randy McNutt and Danielle Miller, seconded by James. Motion carried.

Michelle Jordan then read a prepared statement on trails update and concerns. *The Thursday before Easter, a tornado went through just to the north of the equestrian campground. Conservation crews cleared up the campground but have not been able to get to the trails and they were left closed.*

Volunteers walked the trails to assess the damage, determined it was extensive, and put together a work day. The Director was agreeable to this and was going to help in the morning.

23 volunteers from 3 states attended the workday on May 3rd. They spent their money on fuels, used their own equipment, and gave up their Saturday and time with family to donate to Page County Conservation. We rented the cabin to serve as a base of operations for the group. It was a great place to keep our food hot and locked up while we were on the trails. There is a handout that provides the dollar value for the donation. It's a little short, as more hours were spent than actually recorded that day.

The Director was unable to stay for the workday due to other priorities. Some volunteers arrived as early as 8:30 while other trickled in during the morning.

We had a total of 5 crews with chainsaws. Crews dispersed on the trails and set to work taking out everything that blocked the trails. I had been told that conservation crews would finish clearing if we could just make a path wide enough to get the horses through for the competitive trail ride. As I was working with a bunch of overachievers, we did much more.

Friends of Hacklebarney Woods Park Inc. from Montgomery County had originally planned to rent a skid steer to help with the work, but with rain the previous day, we were afraid to use the skid steer and risk damage to the trails. I had called a board member to see about the possibility of him volunteering to operate the skid steer and at that time I mentioned that it would be much more efficient to go around some of the downed trees rather than spend half a day removing them. This was particularly true for two trees that were lengthways on the trail at a corner. With all the confusion and phone calls back and forth about the skid steer and finding an operator, I am guilty of misunderstanding some communication. Because cutting a corner around the two trees seemed most logical, and everyone seeming to agree, I thought we had board permission to do the trail alteration. It was certainly less invasive than bringing in equipment and maneuvering it around in the timber to clear those two large trees. The trail alteration was a short distance through buckbrush and gooseberry briars. I hope the board sees fit to vote to approve this workaroud tonight.

Another point in question is two large evergreens that had their tops blown over. The tops are still firmly connected to the trees and the limbs are bearing weight at the bottom. It was the general opinion of everyone present that the tree limbs were not going anywhere anytime soon. Again, without a tractor or skid steer, it was easier and safer to go under the limbs, making an opening that was wide enough and tall enough for a horse and ATV.

All trails were cleared wide enough to accommodate a 4-wheeler and/or a side by side. Volunteers were even on their hands and knees picking up locust thorns from the trail to keep from puncturing tires, hiker's shoes, and horse's feet. When everyone was satisfied with the extent of the trail clearance and the safety of them, we quit for lunch. After this, most left for home considering it a job well done.

Five volunteers remained and took to the grass trails below the day use area and the equestrian campground. We found more trees and many limbs from the Russian Olive trees broken and laying over the trails. We stayed until after 3:30 trying to wipe out the rest of the obstructions.

Monday morning the director was intending to reopen the trails, but after inspection she was adamant that the evergreen tree we went under was a safety hazard and could fall on someone. She was also unhappy that we cut the corner around the two large trees to make the trail adjustment. Trails were going to remain closed because she said they were too busy mowing to fix those areas. She is leaving Saturday for vacation and the trails are still closed. I ask the board to make a decision on the safety of the trail or to find a quick resolution that will allow these trails to be opened immediately.

The competitive trail ride is May 17 and 18, with the first campers arriving as soon as the 14th. This ride has been scheduled for many months and I feel that getting these timber trails open is a priority that is being overlooked by the conservation board. If camping fees are such an unimportant source of revenue, please consider offering free camping to everyone.

Another group of riders was planning to be at the campground for the last weekend of April and had to divert their plans as well. Another loss of revenue and source of disappointment for this group. The word is spreading fast that Page County is not prioritizing the trails even if the official Facebook page says that it would.

Another concern, it is widely spread rumor that Pierce Creek and Nodaway will both be losing a number of trails. As far as Pierce Creek is concerned, it will have a devastating effect on the equestrian campground, effectively wiping it off the map. The trail length is already too short for many travelers. Without a respectable number of trails, you only invite day riders and those who wish to sit at camp and drink. Please reconsider if this is the plan. We love the variety of trails and the twists and loops; we need more not less.

Spunaugle indicated that she was defending herself on the rumors and lies being told tonight. She didn't help with the workday because she was behind at home and had put in her 40-hour week, to which Board Chair Marriott commented that she knew coming into the job she'd be working more than a 40-hour week and would have to keep track of her hours. Michelle indicated that she was also told she'd be given comp hours. She said the trails were not safe with some of the overhanging branches. She wasn't notified that she was to rent the cabin out free of charge nor was told that the trails would be altered, and that the group would be utilizing ATV's on the trail without permission nor taking down of the trail closed signs. She posted a thank you on Facebook thanking the group of volunteers for the cleanup, "Over the weekend there were 20 volunteers over to Pierce Creek Recreation Area to work on the tornado damage done to the timber trails on the north end of the park. We are so grateful and impressed with the work they

got done in just a few hours! Thank you so much for your time and hard work it is very much appreciated. There are still some problem areas that need to be addressed before they can be open to the public, but we are definitely ahead of the game now because of those who volunteered. Thank you again!”

Marriott indicated that himself and board member Stimson rode the trails prior to the board meeting and did not find any hazards or any problems. Board member James indicated that he trusted Spunaugle’s judgment on the safety of the trails.

Pat Victor commented on the trails regarding those at Pierce Creek. They had walked the trails at Nodaway and talked about the trail closures. The Director replied that the trails mentioned are unsafe. Signage should be placed to read “use trails at your discretion”.

Deb Ratliff asked if the trails were going to be open for the national trail ride?

Marriott then called for a motion that the trails be will open or deemed safe even if signage of that “entering at your own risk” be put into place for the National Trail Ride to go on.

Stimson asked the Director if it was possible to have the trails open, does she feel that her and the crew can get the trails opened? James stipulated that if signage is put up about entering at your own risk so there is no liability on the board, the director or the county. Stimson mentioned that the safety inspector deemed the trails safe, however the director wanted it on record that she thought they were still unsafe and that she would be out there clearing the trails.

Director’s notes:

Mike took the blade over the new gravel at Rapp to finish filling in potholes and spreading rock around the large parking lot.

Finished taking pictures of every campsite and got those posted on the website.

Cut the stumps down at Nodaway to get them ready for when we can get a stump grinder rented.

Turned the water on to the parks, had a couple of leaks at Pioneer and put new seals in the backflow preventer at Rapp and got it tested.

Kiosks were installed, and we have started getting information put in them.

A tornado hit Pierce Creek on April 17th and we got behind on mowing the parks for a week to clean up debris in the north campground, we are back on track for mowing, now we are catching up on weed-eating, whenever we get done mowing and weed-eating during the week will put our time in to finish clearing up the timber trails on the north end of the park. A group of volunteers were out on May 3rd to start the cleanup process on those trails and got the majority of the trees cleaned up off the trails and we are incredibly grateful for their help and very impressed at their hard work!

Sent a damage report to the Page County EMA and made an insurance claim on the Pierce Creek shop roof because there were shingles missing on the south side, started getting quotes for the roof and I will meet with the insurance adjuster tomorrow.

Sprayed camp pads and parking area for weeds.

Hired 2 new seasonal employees that will start in a couple of weeks.

Got my CPR certification

Installed A/C units at each cabin.

Placed new dumpsters at the office and each campground.

Working with Verizon to set up new phones at the office because we have had issues with current ones.

Mike picked up the bush hog from Secondary Roads and will be working on it next week, so we can get out and start mowing prairie trails.

Board Communications: James asked about protocol and communication on changes to the meeting, there is a lack of communication on activities. Stimson indicated setting up a group text to inform the board members of any change in information. Marriott indicated he would be sending in his resignation to the board on Wednesday.

Motion: Stimson moved, to adjourn the meeting, James seconded. Motion passed. Meeting then adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Approved:

Chair Jane Stimson

Secretary Mike

There was
no meeting
in June
2025

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Board's office at 6:30 p.m.

Members present included Zachary James, Connie Cade, Bill Greenleaf, Rudy Brownfield and Jane Stimson. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

Vistors present included Judith Blay, Larry Lock, Rick Rivers, Jimmy Briggs, Larry Shum, Joe Cason, Deb Ratliff, Peg Carraher, Todd Maher, Marshall Brown, Parrish Ellis, Alan Mortimore, Mike Koval and Stanley Ullerich.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Stimson. This was followed by short introductions by board members in attendance.

Approve Agenda: Brownfield moved, Cade seconded, to approve the Agenda for July 8, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes: Greenleaf moved, James seconded, to approve the Minutes of May 7, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims of the following pay periods of May 21, June 4, June 18, June 25 and July 2 were reviewed. Director Spunaugle provided explanations for the larger claims. Motion by Cade, seconded by Greenleaf, to approve the Claims as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comments were then held. Deb Ratliff asked about questions during a portion of the Old Business so that was clarified for her. Rick Rivers inquired about the trees around the lake at Rapp Lake. Peg Carraher inquired about the downed trail marking signage on the trails at Pierce Creek. Why did they get taken down? This will be put on the August agenda for further discussion.

Joe Cason brought up the revised SOP for the range. He indicated what days and hours needs to be determined yet and they're waiting on a re-inspection of the range. He indicated that on page 11, #7 was added, "the Page County Conservation Board will suspend public live fire use of the range if gross violations of the SOP's are documented." Vice Chair then indicated that all Facebook posts she had seen about inflammatory communications and pasts threats would be stopped.

Vice- Chair Stimson then asked for clarifications to be made in the SOP beginning with page 6 - Hours of Operation – maybe it should state, "the range may be available to live fire. Page 7, class training currently states that Page County Conservation will offer a ½ to 1-hour range and safety class training, this should be corrected to be under the range committee's duties not PCCB staff. Page 7 – sign in – one guest per certified shooter, cardholder must be present. Page 8 – Certified shooters – range available for certified shooters "at any time" it is not reserved? Page 9 – who is providing targets, PCCB does not provide targets, reserving the range – reword first line its' not clear. Talk about 30 days notice of reservations and Page 11 on range inspection and the

berms were discussed regarding the 20ft height which is for the rifle range and pistol range height is different and to have berm height problems corrected within a year? Should be corrected sooner than that.

The committee has some people with equipment who is willing to go in and do some work. Page 12 – Range closure procedure needs clarified as well as clarification on gun range committee personnel not conservation staff in pages 5, 7 and 12. Hours were discussed. Cade asked the difference between range officers and chief safety range officers. They are mandatory on the range.

Deb Ratliff mentioned that 7 days a week is too much shooting in relationship to horse riding. Board member Greenleaf reminded everyone there is signage at the equestrian area that indicates when the range is open or closed. He mentioned about setting some pre-determined dates and times and then adjust from there. Board Member James suggested notifying area landowners and placing on Facebook and website when the range will be open for use. Stimson mentioned about meeting with the landowners one on one.

Peg Carraher wanted to know who determines berm height – she was informed that there are range standards that are applied.

In the SOP should spell out some “housekeeping” and cleanup of range after each use. Should add that PCCB will maintain the grounds as in mowing, weed eating, and spraying.

Motion: James moved to table until August meeting, Greenleaf seconded, to correct verbiage in the SOP for clarification. All in favor and motion carried.

Motion: Brownfield moved, Cade seconded, to table any further discussion on the hours for the range and place it on the August agenda. All in favor and motion carried.

Judith Blay would like to order a plaque in memory of Joyce Kruse to be placed at the shelter in the equestrian campground and wondered where to get one made, she was given several leads. She also indicated that the committee would also like to place one on the gate to the arena.

Motion: James moved, Greenleaf seconded, to allow Judith to proceed with the plaques for the Pierce Creek Equestrian area. All in favor and motion carried.

In Old Business Deb Ratliff had some concerns about downed trees on the trail, overgrowth of trees in the fence line/timber trails and along the dike and some deep holes north of the arena. The Director indicated she had filled in the holes by the lake and had sprayed the dike. Ratliff distributed photos she had taken.

Discuss and action on changing of the meeting date. A consensus of the Board is 2nd Tuesday works best.

Motion: James moved, Brownfield seconded, to change the meeting date from the 1st Wednesday of the month to the 2nd Tuesday with a meeting time at 6:30 p.m. This will start with the August meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers – James moved to nominate Stimson as Chair, seconded by Cade. All in favor and motion carried.

Cade moved to nominate Zach James as Vice-Chair, seconded by Brownfield. All in favor and motion carried.

James moved to nominate Greenleaf as Secretary, seconded by Brownfield. All in favor and motion carried.

Slate of Officers is as follows: Chair – Jane Stimson, Vice Chair – Zach James and Secretary is Bill Greenleaf.

Cabin rental agreement was reviewed, the Director noted the changes that has been made including a deposit fee, schedule out at least 2 weeks and a maximum stay of 7 days.

Motion: Brownfield moved, James seconded, to adopt the revised cabin rental agreement. All in favor and motion carried.

The Director notes were then read. She also presented a 5-year work plan for review. Also discussed were temporary trail safety concerns, no action was taken; however, the Board gave her creative license to implement the changes on the trails as necessary.

Board Communication included the board member handbook and going thru it as a group. Stimson inquired about number of campers we've had.

Motion: Brownfield moved, Greenleaf seconded, to adjourn. All in favor and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Approved: August 12, 2025

Chair Jane Stimson
Secretary W.A. Gub

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Board's office beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Members present included Jane Stimson, Rudy Brownfield, Bill Greenleaf, Connie Cade and Zachary James. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

Present as guests included Judith Blay, Deb Ratliff, Alan Mortimore, Mike Koval, Jeff Eshelman, Marshall Brown and Matt Dollison.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jane Stimson.

Approve Agenda: Brownfield moved, Greenleaf seconded, to approve to move Matt Dollison, on the agenda before Old Business. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes: Brownfield moved, Cade seconded, to approve the Minutes of July 8, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims of the following pay periods of July 16, July 30 and August 13 were reviewed. Director Spunaugle provided explanations for the larger expenditures. Motion by James, seconded by Greenleaf, to approve the Claims as submitted. All in favor and motion passed.

Public comments were then opened. Deb Ratliff talked about the timber trails at Pierce Creek being way overgrown. Spunaugle indicated that if the trail isn't mowed it won't be open. Judith Blay showed a mockup of the signage that is to be placed at the Joyce Kruse memorial equestrian campground. Jeff Eshelman commented on how nice Nodaway Valley park roads looked since they've been re-done.

Matt Dollison, DNR, provided a habitat management plan for Ross Park Wildlife Area. Matt outlined some of the items that could be done to implement better management of the area. He encouraged the Board to apply for a habitat stamp grant for public hunting areas which is a cost share grant program of 75% DNR funds and a 25% match from PCCB. He indicated that Pheasants Forever may be interested and could possibly fund the 25% match since they're interested in seeing some management work completed. This may require a bid process with interested farmers.

Motion: Cade moved, Brownfield seconded, to have the Director apply for the Habitat Stamp grant which is due November 1st. All in favor and motion carried.

The SOP for the gun range was discussed at length with many clarifications inquired about from Board Member Cade. Questions included matter of infractions and how that will be handled (from the Orientation pages) to page 10 - #6 on the Board's function. Page 11-#1 – range closure procedure was defined with chain of command for the suspended use of the range. 2 hour rotating time versus the 30-minute timeframe was clarified. Target frames will be supplied by the gun range committee – (page 8 - #3). Vice Chair James inquired about the clay targets for hunter ed use. It was decided that the current statement will suffice (page 9 - #21). Page 6 –

changed from the range is available to may be available to live fire and operation of hours will depend on availability of range safety officers and chief range safety officers. Eshelman then discussed what hours he would like to see. Cade discussed the noise factor and the concerns of other users of the park. Chair Stimson asked about who decides what is a timely manner on inspections of the berms. Cade – page 6 under shooter certification – the range will not be open if there is no range safety officers present. Page 7 on certification – clarify about one guest per visit. Guests can be inside the gate and observe but not participate unless they've paid their membership or one day fee and take the class. Page 8 reserving the range - for special use permit. Page 9- #10 spectators – not active on the firing line. Page 10 -#2 Those found who have consumed drugs/alcohol will not be allowed on the range. Page 11 - #3 toilets inspected monthly - the porta pot was the answer. Location of it was discussed. Page 13 - weather issue question on severe weather and leaving the area. All corrections from previous board meetings have been incorporated into the current SOP.

Motion: Brownfield moved, Greenleaf seconded, to remove all hours of operation and any reference to it from the SOP. All in favor and motion passed.

Motion: Brownfield moved, Cade seconded, to approve the SOP document with the changes that have been made.

Discussion on operating hours for the range was then held. It was determined to have the range open for a trial run for 3 weeks excluding the Labor Day weekend and will visit the topic at the September meeting. The hours are as follows – Wednesday's 10 a.m. – 1 hour before sunset. Saturday, August 16 – 10 a.m. - 1 hour before sunset. Sunday, August 17 – 1-6 p.m. Saturday, August 23 – 10 a.m. – 1 hour before sunset. Sunday, August 24 – 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday, September 6 - 10 a.m. – 1 hour before sunset and Sunday, September 7 – 1 – 6 p.m.

Motion: Brownfield moved to approve the temporary hours as stated, to establish a baseline for usage, second by James. The same information on usage for the horse people should be obtained. Roll call vote was then taken. Brownfield aye, Stimson – aye, Greenfield – aye, Cade – nay and James -aye. Motion passed.

A review of the shower house at Pioneer Park was discussed. A new floor plan was distributed to the Board, discussion included moving the shower house from present location to the lower portion downhill as indicated on the map with handicap accessibility also in the discussion. New bids for building and septic will be sent out.

Motion: James moved to accept the new location for the site of new shower house at Pioneer Park, seconded by Greenleaf. All in favor and motion carried.

A short discussion on lack of signage on the trails at Pierce Creek. The Director indicated that this has been discussed before, but trail signage wouldn't be implemented until trail maintenance has been completed including the widening of the trails and closing of some of the trails that will remain closed. She talked about the educational components she'd like to incorporate on the trails as well. Nodaway's trail conditions were discussed with the need to look for expert help on identifying the erosion and finding someone to fix them.

Filling the vacated terms left by former board members is as follows; Rudy Brownfield – 12/31/2025, Connie Cade – 12/31/26 and Bill Greenleaf 12/31/2028. Jane Stimson's remains unchanged at 12/31/2027 and Zachary James at 12/31/29.

Motion: James moved, Cade seconded, to accept the terms as shown. All in favor and motion carried.

Director's notes were then read, and also the bio-char treatment project is in it's 5th treatment at Pierce Creek.

In Board communication, Cade suggested moving the Director's notes up on the agenda before public comment. Chair Stimson indicated she would like to go over the board member handbook as a group. This will be placed on the September agenda.

Motion: James moved, Greenleaf seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor and motion carried. Meeting then adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Approved: September 9, 2025

Chair Jane Stimson

Board Secretary M. J. Giff

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at Nodaway Valley Park at 6:30 p.m.

Members present included Jane Stimson, Connie Cade, Rudy Brownfield, Bill Greenleaf and Zachary James. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

Also present as visitors included Jimmy Briggs, Jeff Eshelman, Mike Koval, Marshall Brown, Ayn Dahkle Taylor, Deb Ratliff, Stephanie and Timber Miller, Judith Blay, Larry Lock, Pat Victor, Michelle Jordan, Rick and Linda Nelson, Carey Millikan, Larry Shum, Steve and Linda Wagoner.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jane Stimson.

Approve the Agenda: Greenleaf moved, Cade seconded, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Minutes: Brownfield moved, Greenleaf seconded, to approve the Minutes of August 12, 2025. Motion carried.

Approve Claims: Claims of the following pay periods for August 27 and September 10 were reviewed. Director Spunaugle provided explanations on the expenditures. Cade moved, Brownfield seconded, to approve the Claims as submitted. All in favor and motion carried.

Director's notes were then read with the following work:

- Replaced all but one old picnic grill at Nodaway with ADA compliant grills
- Cut back brush on trails at Pierce Creek, I can now do a 12' mowing width on the majority of the trails and filled the wet area on the trail on the east side of lake
- Just got the estimate on the 2 roofs for the Pierce Creek pit toilets and it is quite a bit higher than what the insurance check would be so we will have to fix it ourselves
- Had a new event on August 23rd called Cops and Bobbers over at Rapp Park. It had a good turnout but unfortunately no fish wanted to bite that day, but the kids got prizes and free donuts for showing up. We will try again next year!
- Went out and mapped the trails out at Pierce again and started working on a new map for the kiosks until we can get signage out there, then I will have to make a new map again with the new signs added to it
- Started building a frame for our indoor pond for educational purposes
- We have been clearing shorelines at Rapp and Pioneer
- After significant rains the roads all needed blading and potholes filled again. There was an abundance of rock piled at Ross Park, so we got it distributed throughout the areas of the road that needed it most
- Mowing is slowing down finally so we can start getting caught up on tree trimming and brush removal

- Re-plumbed the women's shower at Pierce Creek campground in order to replace the handle that was broken

Public comment period was then opened.

Carey Millikan stated she is a trail user and would like more access to keep the trails open. Ayn Dahlke-Taylor said Pierce Creek is a place for both users (horse and gun range). Is there a way to raise the flag when the range is operating? To have mounting blocks by the dam so riders can dismount and walk their horses across it? Concerns about children and horses by the gun range. Why are we worried about the safety of the users of the gun range and not the trail users? Why not accepting help to clear trails – why are volunteers not being used? Shutting down the trails seems like an agenda and if it is, the person with the agenda needs to find a new job. That is her honest opinion while she lives and pays taxes in Page County. Ayn also mentioned that thank God the Director has a bulletproof vest on.

Jeff Eshelman wanted to know if that was a personal attack on the Director. Ayn replied it is and isn't because is the Director paying attention?

Board member Greenleaf interjected on the quality of the trails and says that the Director is wanting to make some improvements.

Stephanie Miller is in support of the gun range but would like the trails safe to ride and have it a place for everyone to use. The community uses the trails.

Board Chair Stimson said she supports the equestrian users.

Rick Nelson felt that there were more horse people using the park more than the gun range. Deb Ratliff commented on the timber trails being overgrown, trails closed and would like to see some benches installed along the trail using Joyce Kruse memorial funds but afraid that the trails wouldn't be used or the benches utilized.

Pat Victor talked about the trails in bad shape or closed ones that need opened.

Jimmy Briggs wanted to know if any kind of study had been done about the effects of horse trails in relation to damage to wildlife.

Jeff Eshelman commented that the trails are closed for safety reasons and that it would be difficult to get an UTV/rescue team to get an injured person out.

Mike Koval said there is interest in redesigning the trail by the Director.

Judith Blay asked why shut down the trails before redesigning the trails?

Carey Millikan would like to see all open areas cleaned up and that it appears that timber trails are overgrown and need attention.

Ann Taylor asked again about the use of volunteers.

Board Member Greenleaf indicated that a plan should be drawn up and pre-approved by the Director and Board about the trail cleanup.

Carey Millikan again mentioned organizing and developing a plan to assist with volunteer labor.

Board Member Connie Cade mentioned having a liaison type relationship with the Director, like what she had with the personnel at Three Fires.

Old Business was the report by the gun range committee on its trial usage for the time it had been used. Jeff Eshelman, President of the range committee, went over the

attendance sheets that are filled out per use at the range with clocking in and clocking out. The attendance to date shows there is support for the range. The hours they had were Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset, Saturdays were also 10 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset and Sunday's 1 to 6 p.m. They currently have seventy-seven members. There is a RSO class scheduled for the 13th – there are currently 14 RSO's and four scheduled for training. The monies brought in to date are \$1,885 and will go towards range improvements.

Jane is excited to see the parks used and thinks that the groups can get along, by forming a committee between both groups to open communications between them.

Signage is needed at the corner of 150th/A Ave regarding the gun range and equestrian area.

Hours going forward were requested. Board member Brownfield did not want to set a limit on any users. Range committee asked to maintain the same hours and be consistent with the hours that had been set which were every Wednesday (10 a.m. till 1 hr. before sunset), every Saturday (10 a.m. till 1 hr. before sunset) and half day on Sunday (1-6 pm.) Motion by Cade to establish hours and stay the same as previous gun range hours, which being Wednesday and every other Saturday. Motion failed for lack of a second. Usage will be revisited over the winter. Brownfield moved, Greenleaf seconded, to leave the hours as is for now – Wednesday (10 a.m. until 1 hr. before sunset) Saturday (10 a.m. until one hr. before sunset) and Sunday (1 p.m. to 6 p.m.). Roll call vote was then taken – Brownfield – aye, James – aye, Greenleaf – aye, Stimson – nay and Cade nay. Motion passed 3-2.

Septic bids for the shower house at Pioneer were then read. Brownfield Brothers - \$19,400 and Jeremy Wise Excavation - \$16,875.00. Brownfield abstained from voting. Motion by James to accept the low bid from JW Excavation, seconded by Greenleaf. Motion carried.

Bids for the shower house were then read. Josh Dow - \$158,500.00 and Honeyman Construction - \$94,598.84. Motion by Brownfield, seconded by Cade, to accept the low bid from Honeyman Construction. Motion carried.

Michelle Jordan then presented to the board a survey that had been posted on Pierce Creek Information and Friends page. There were 149 respondents to the survey. Major concerns were the noise level from the range and keeping the trails open. She read the survey questions and shared the % of answers. She shared how many volunteer hours and equipment that has been donated by the Back Country Horseman, an amount of \$7,723.00.

It was mentioned on having a survey on the conservation webpage, a public page, about park usage. This will be discussed at another meeting.

Motion entered by James, seconded by Brownfield, to table any further discussion on trails at this meeting. All in favor and motion carried.

Motion entered by Brownfield, seconded by Greenleaf, to table the discussion of the board member handbook. All in favor and motion carried.

In board communication was the 5-year plan, the biochar project thru the month of September. Question was asked about the 14-day advance notice on the cabin. The PCCB website looks good, neat and clean. Add the north campground sign as the Lanae Nelson campground signage is there. Mounting blocks – the gun and horse committees could get together and build some.

Next meeting @ Ross Park at 6 p.m.

Motion to adjourn entered by James, seconded by Greenleaf. All in favor and motion carried.

Approved:

Chair_____

Secretary_____

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at Ross Park at 5:54 p.m.

Members present included Connie Cade, Zac James, Bill Greenleaf, Rudy Brownfield and Jane Stimson. Also present were Spunaugle and Stevens.

Present as a visitor, Alan Mortimore.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jane Stimson.

Approve the Agenda: Chair Stimson would like to move Board member handbook down on the agenda before board communication. Greenleaf moved, James seconded, to approve the revised agenda as stated. All in favor and motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Brownfield moved, James seconded, to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims of the following pay periods of September 24th and October 8th were reviewed with explanations on claims provided. Cade moved, Brownfield seconded, to approve claims as submitted. All in favor and motion carried.

Director's notes were read with the following work being done:

- Built an educational "pond" display at the office
- Spent several weeks clearing shorelines at Pioneer and Rapp and have made a lot of progress and had several comments on how nice everything is beginning to look
- Mowing the parks was still going strong until this last week when we finally got a break
- Met with Merrill Kruse and ordered 3 benches for the trails at Pierce in memory of Joyce
- Met with our septic contractor for the Pioneer shower house to go over location and details and as soon as they have time they will begin digging and installing the new septic tank yet this fall for the building
- Met with our contractor for the Pioneer shower house building to go over location and details about the project. We talked about the building project next spring
- Cut back brush from roads and shorelines at Pierce Creek
- Put in new ceiling at Nodaway shower house
- Starting to get things ready for winter, cleaning storage buildings, vehicles, bringing liquids to store at the office for winter, winterized chemical tanks, next week I will begin shutting water down at the parks
- Our seasonal's last day is tomorrow
- I am heading to leadership training in the morning for 2 days just east of Des Moines at Marion County Conservation

- Our Halloween Bash at Rapp Park is this Saturday so I've been working on getting things ready for that for a couple of weeks, we got a lot of donations, and I have been preparing games for the kids

Director then read a prepared statement which is as follows:

I would like to talk about what happened at the last meeting and also clear up some of the rumors and lies that are going around. Just to make it clear to everyone I was hired as a law enforcement officer and that is why I wear a bulletproof vest, because it is part of my uniform and I like to make sure that I dress in my uniform for public meetings for professionalism. I felt that the statement that was made was not only an attack to me personally by an equestrian group member last meeting but to law enforcement professionals as a whole. There has also been a certain equestrian member that repeatedly keeps harassing my family and friends about things that don't involve them whatsoever and that also needs to come to a stop. I also do not appreciate threats about whether I should be in this job and that I should find a new job. I deserve more respect than that, I have worked extremely hard to get where I am today, I have been working in this field for over a decade. Remember, I am a paid county employee, and the conservation board are volunteers. I am the one that is out in those parks for a minimum of 40 hours per week ensuring they are safe and full of recreational opportunities for everyone. I was hired to be the chief advisor to the board and is responsible for developing the Board's strategic plan per my job description.

*I am also wondering where the equestrian people are getting all their false information. When I say false information, I mean, that the trails are **all** being closed or that even the majority of them are, that the equestrian area is going to get closed, that there are no volunteers allowed at our parks, that I called the trails stupid, and I supposedly have an "agenda" And these are just the rumors I know about. Someone is spreading these rumors and lies, and I want to straighten it out one last time tonight, because no one has ever tried to contact me and make sure that the things you were being told were true. It was stated several times at the last meeting that volunteers can come and cut back all of our trails for us, but I have been here for over a year now and have never been approached about helping me out with the management of the trails other than when the tornado came through in April. The equestrian group wanted to make sure they were opened back up for their equestrian event. I have never called the trails stupid; I called them confusing and that they just go in loops all over. I have no "agenda" and never have. I started on this trail project back in August of 2024, only 2 weeks after I started here. When I rode those trails and saw the maps I got lost several times. I didn't really know anyone yet and I certainly didn't know about all the past issues that had gone on in the county conservation department. Not **all** of the trails are being closed at Pierce or Nodaway, just the ones that cause confusion and have safety risks, some are temporary, and some are permanent. I have only been attacked about the trails and told that they were, and I quote from a Facebook post, "like shit", overgrown, buggy, and need mowing. If you would ever talk to me about things and know that, yes, earlier this year the trails were in rough shape because the board before this one had told me during 2 board meetings that I could not work on any*

trails anymore until they took the time to go out and walk them. This of course never happened so the trails began to get overgrown but as soon as new board gave me permission to do my job again, then I got right back to work by busting my butt every day widening those trails back out so that I can mow a 12-foot span on the majority of the trails. So, to have people that are making these awful comments and criticizing anything I do at Pierce Creek right now and say they want to come out and volunteer to help maintain the trails, I am pretty reluctant, and you can see why now. It will take some time to gain my trust back and allow anyone to go out and work on those trails that have done nothing but attack me about this issue.

I also want you all to know that Pierce Creek is not our only park at Page County Conservation we have to manage, we do have 6 others and specifically the Pierce Creek multi-use trails are not the only piece of Pierce Creek Recreation Area that we have to manage. So no they are not always going to be at the top of my priority list and everyone needs to have some patience with me and my crew while we make time to maintain each of our areas the very best that we can, with what minor equipment we do have and if you ask around I have actually had several compliments on the work that we have been doing in the Page County Conservation Parks as a whole for the past year. We are very thankful for the hard work that was put in by volunteers in the past to help build the equestrian campground and start the trail system out at the park but that does not mean that Pierce Creek is now an equestrian park, and the trails are not only for equestrian riders. When you donate your time and money it is supposed to be out of the goodness of your heart and not used as power and control over this board and the employees that work here. It is still a recreation area, and the trails do need to be simplified so I can make them easier for everyone that visits the park and easier to maintain and install signage. This will also make bringing education out to our parks easier. I want nothing more than to teach everyone about why conservation is so important for this state and to share a passion I have for conserving the few natural resources that we do have left in this beautiful state.

So, as you will see I have put on the agenda for discuss and action trail renovation because I will again and the last time for quite a while go into detail about what I would like trail systems to become and for other future projects I have been thinking about doing as the Director of this county conservation board. I put the closing of the confusing loops in my 5-year plan back in September meeting of 2024 and then again in my director's notes in October and never heard any feedback, good or bad, so I began my project, then suddenly in the March meeting the board at that time all of a sudden had problem with it. I plan to be here for the next 25-30 years, and I plan to make Page County Parks the best in the state of Iowa.

Board members Greenleaf and James did tour Pierce Creek on horseback to look at the trails. James indicated that parts of the east side were confusing, and he felt lost and open portions of the trail on the west side were good. Greenleaf expressed the same experience on the ride. Greenleaf asked about an eagle scout project on rehabbing the playground set

which the Director agreed to. Mounting blocks were discussed with Mr. Kruse and he will talk to his contractor to get them made.

Public comments were emailed in – they included Val Black from Shenandoah suggesting better access to go fishing at Rapp Park for senior citizens and the handicapped would be appreciated. As it is now, the distance to shoreline fishing is too far for us. Thank you for your consideration to this.

Jeff Eshelman's email was an update with the range having over 82 memberships cards handed out, 35 family, 47 individual. The people are supporting the range. All of our hard work is being noticed by the community. You are helping our committee train and helping our community train, you are supporting our 2nd amendment rights. I'm also getting phone calls from area churches who want to create security teams. I wish I could be there to thank the conservation board for their support. And just an FYI the range will be closed on Thanksgiving weekend.

A closing statement about the Pierce Creek Lake Restoration project is as follows:
Good evening everyone, I'm proud to report that all eight doses of our biological lake restoration treatment at Pierce Creek Lake are now complete. Over the past several weeks, we've carried out one of Iowa's most ambitious nature-based restoration projects. Each batch of treatment was carefully handcrafted with locally sourced bio-char, beneficial microbes, enzymes, mineral additives and natural nutrient balancers, and colonized over a 3-7 day period using water from the lake itself. The result was a living ecosystem in a tote, introduced back into the lake to help reduce sludge, clear algae, bind excess nutrients, and restore clarity to the water column. Our dosing strategy covered all 40 acres of Pierce Creek Lake in 8 phases, with careful attention to inlet and outlet zones, which typically carry the heaviest nutrient loads. This was not a chemical treatment. We didn't mask the symptoms; we introduced a new long-term biological system to help the lake begin healing itself from within. Already, we're seeing encouraging signs: Improved water clarity in several zones, noticeable reduction in duckweed and surface scum, a healthier scent and less stagnation, and most importantly, no harm to fish, wildlife, or visitors. This treatment was custom designed for the unique conditions of Pierce Creek Lake and based entirely on natural ingredients. It was built by a local business, for a local problem. I want to thank the Page County Conservation Board for being bold enough to try something different, something regenerative. I'm also grateful to our community, the volunteers, and everyone who supported this work with curiosity, questions and encouragement. Show Me the Carbon will continue monitoring and supporting the recovery of this lake. And we'll also be hosting public education events, volunteer opportunities, and follow-up testing to show the impact this living solution can have. If you'd like to learn more, see visuals, or get involved, please visit our website at www.showmethethecarbon.com. Thank you again for your support, and for believing in a better future for our water. Jessica Niskin

The Director had a statement about the trail renovation at Nodaway Valley Park and Pierce Creek Recreation Area which follows:

The trail systems at Nodaway Valley Park and Pierce Creek Recreation Area need renovation. There are several short loops at each park within the trail system that make it more like a maze. We need the trails to have a purpose, and I would like that purpose to be education. These 2 parks where the main trails are for our county represent wildlife refuges and I think we need to simplify the trail system so that we are not destroying natural habitat for the wildlife that resides there. You will notice in the maps that I gave you that one is maps of what trails are out there currently and maps that show the future of the trail systems of each park. You will notice that many of the trails at Nodaway Valley Park are not on the new map, that is because there are several trails out there currently that are unsafe for my crew to get down to maintain them and if we can't get down them to maintain then, then I can't hardly send someone down them for recreational purposes. These are not all going to be shut down permanently. I plan to get someone there to access the erosion damage and give us some guidance on how to fix them indefinitely. But, until we can fix them, I want to make sure people have a map showing which trails are closed and which are all still maintained, plus we can go ahead and start incorporating signage and educational material on the trails that remain open. With this new system of trails at Pierce Creek we will be providing 7 miles of physical trails and if you make the same trek back to where you started it actually 14 miles worth of trails. The packets that you were given have several options of educational signs that are made for being out on nature trails. I will use the same method at Pierce Creek as I did at Nodaway to close down the trails, brush piles at each entrance, they are free, they provide good habitat for animals and are natural and will break down once the trails have grown back over. I will begin removing old signs so it is not confusing for people and they will have new maps to guide them through the trail system until we can get directional signs in place. The maps that I have given you tonight are for your binders only, they are not the ones that will go in the kiosks and on the website. In our packet you will find 2 different pamphlets for signs from 2 different companies. I just chose a few pages out of each pamphlet from the one company and printed a few pages from the website of the other company to give you an idea on what the signs look like. There are also some examples of the storybook holders. This would be a great asset to our parks to teach the public about why these resources that we are protecting are vital to the lives we live. There are also few examples in the VACKERSIGN booklet pages that show trails markers that we could use to make directional signs on the trails. I would really like to continue with this project that yes will take years to complete but I think it's worth the effort to bring an educational and entertaining experience out to these trails that I know are used often already. With these upgrades I think this will also bring even more people out to our parks to see what they can learn about the parks and the natural resources that this state has to offer. I am hoping to get a motion tonight to begin trail renovation at Pierce Creek Recreation Area and Nodaway Valley Park.

Board member Cade asked what the renovation would look like and Spunaugle indicated that it would look like it does now with the closing of the unnecessary trails, removal of signage and then looking for grants. Board Member Brownfield asked about the possibility of GPS's of trails down the road.

Motion by Brownfield to allow the Director to continue uninterrupted with the trail renovation project until they see the final outcome of her trail renovation, seconded by Cade. Motion carried unanimously.

Board communication included Connie Cade's mention of open communication from the gun range committee and in a timely manner about Thanksgiving weekend on Facebook and equestrian page.

Zac commented again on the trails saying how nice open portions of the trail were. Thank you for your hard work Michelle. Shoreline work was mentioned – how nice it was looking.

Motion by Brownfield, seconded by Greenleaf to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting then adjourned approximately 7:05 p.m.

Approved: November 19, 2025

Chair _____

Secretary _____

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the Board's office.

Members present included Zac James, Rudy Brownfield, William Greenleaf, Connie Cade and Jane Stimson. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

Present as guests were Chris and Curtis Fisher and Alan Mortimore.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jane Stimson.

Approve the Agenda: Chair Stimson would like to move the Eagle Scout project forward on the agenda after public comments. Motion by Greenleaf to move the item as so stated, seconded by Brownfield. All in favor and motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Chair Stimson would like to see it stated as a correction to the October 14, 2025 meeting that she did not vote for the proposed trail renovation. Cade moved to support the clarification in the Minutes, seconded by James. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Claims: Claims from pay period of October 22nd were reviewed. Motion to approve the claims entered by Greenleaf, seconded by Cade. All in favor and motion carried. Claims from pay period November 5th were reviewed, motion entered by James to approve, seconded by Greenleaf. All in favor and motion carried. Claims of November 19th were reviewed, Brownfield moved, Cade seconded to approve those claims. All in favor and motion carried. Explanation of expenditures were available.

Directors notes were then given as follows:

- Went to leadership training on October 15th and October 16th. Very informative and networked with other people in the field.
- Our Halloween Bash at Rapp Park was very successful. We went through almost 200 hot dogs and the kids had a blast with the games we made.
- Shut off water at the parks.
- Winterizing our shops and the equipment in them.
- Completed one of my 2 required annual pesticide training videos at the extension office.
- Got dumpsters removed from campground and stored at Pierce Creek.
- Closed down campgrounds, turned off electricity at each campground.
- Took the free Iowa Public Information Board training on open meetings.
- Had a meeting with Betsy at the Extension office about the master conservationist program she wants to put on next fall.
- Starting to cut brush and dead trees out of the parks.

- Find ways to get public opinion on what they want or already use the parks for.

The Director was given a #3 rating (commendable – performs beyond specified requirements within job description).

Motion entered by James to adjourn, seconded by Greenleaf. Meeting then adjourned at 9 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025.

Approved: December 9, 2025

Chair_____

Secretary_____

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the Board's office.

Members present included Zac James, Rudy Brownfield, William Greenleaf, Connie Cade and Jane Stimson. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

Present as guests were Chris and Curtis Fisher and Alan Mortimore.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jane Stimson.

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Approve Claims: Claims from pay period of October 22nd were reviewed. Motion to approve the claims entered by Greenleaf, seconded by Cade. All in favor and motion carried. Claims from pay period November 5th were reviewed, motion entered by James to approve, seconded by Greenleaf. All in favor and motion carried. Claims of November 19th were reviewed, Brownfield moved, Cade seconded to approve those claims. All in favor and motion carried. Explanation of expenditures were available.

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- Had a meeting with Betsy at the Extension office about the master conservationist program she wants to put on next fall.
- Starting to cut brush and dead trees out of the parks.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, we heard from Alan Mortimore inquiring about a fishing stocking schedule.

Curtis Fisher, Eagle Scout, gave a detailed explanation of his proposed playground renovation and seeking approval from the Board to rebuild the playground equipment and bench at Pierce Creek. The building materials will be donated by Miller Lumber. Curtis will organize other scouts to help with the rebuild and he proposes it will take approximately two weekends to complete in the spring. Project will be overseen by a construction contractor, Kyle Taylor. Components of the playground like the tire swing and the overhang on the swing set were also part of the discussion.

Motion entered by Brownfield to approve the rebuild of the playground equipment at Pierce Creek, seconded by James. Motion carried unanimously.

In New Business, Chair Stimson went over the Board Member handbook with the Board for further investigation on their own. No action was taken.

The Director reviewed the roof bid from ASI Roofing in the amount of \$5,698.00 for the latrine roof at Pierce Creek that suffered tornado damage. Insurance check for \$1,274.91 and a grant for \$4,000.00 has been received to help towards the cost, leaving us with approximately \$423.09 to pay out of pocket.

Motion entered by James to approve the bid from ASI Roofing to proceed with roof repairs at Pierce Creek, seconded by Greenleaf. All in favor and motion carried.

The Director then reviewed with the board her request for comp-time. Handouts explaining FLSA standards and her weekly timesheet calculator beginning July 15, 2024, thru this month to date were in their board packets for their review. Spunaugle also discussed flex time that she's been doing. The Board was in consensus to continue to allow Spunaugle to do the flex time.

Board communication included IPIB meetings, Jane walked the trail to the river, she mentioned about closed trails at NVP, the faded highway sign and who is responsible for the replacement. Zac mentioned about the success of the Halloween Bash and seeing more activities and more public relations.

Annual Directors' evaluation was then completed. The Director opted not to go to close session. The Chair went over the form with the Board including quality of work, quantity of work, knowledge, human relations and job dependability. It was during the evaluation that she has done an excellent job and has accomplished so much already. She shows patience and professionalism. Furthermore, the evaluation based goals or objectives to establish for the period between this and the next review. Those were listed as follows:

- Check camper registration & pickup monies Fri, Sat and Sundays.
- Find ways to ascertain who is using the parks and how much.

- Find ways to get public opinion on what they want or already use the parks for.

The Director was given a #3 rating (commendable – performs beyond specified requirements within job description).

Motion entered by James to adjourn, seconded by Greenleaf. Meeting then adjourned at 9 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025.

Approved: December 9, 2025

Chair_____

Secretary_____

The regular meeting of the Page County Conservation Board was held Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Board's office.

Members present included Jane Stimson, William Greenleaf, Zac James, Rudy Brownfield and Connie Cade. Also present were staff Spunaugle and Stevens.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair, Jane Stimson.

Approve the Agenda: Motion by Brownfield, seconded by James, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Approve the Minutes: Minutes of November were presented, Greenleaf pointed out that Curtis Fisher is a Life Scout doing an Eagle Scout project. Motion by Cade to amend the Minutes to reflect the change, seconded by Brownfield. Motion carried.

Approve Claims: Stevens pointed out an error in the posting on the agenda for the claims. One is the due date, and the second date is paid date. The claims for December 3rd were then reviewed. Motion by Brownfield to approve the claims, seconded by Greenleaf. Motion carried.

Director's notes were then read:

- Widening trails at Pierce
- Going through documents in office and shed out back, making piles of things to shred and things to go through and file
- Got the snow blade put on the truck for winter
- Got caught up on 3 days worth of training that is required for law enforcement
- Have my last pesticide training tomorrow morning
- Thursday is our district meeting, this one will be held in Madison County
- Burned the brush pile at Pierce Creek

No public comments.

A review of the 5- year plan was then held for discussion.

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

- Build new shower building at Pioneer campground (*we have a partial grant*)
- Begin shutting down unsafe trails and confusing loops in trails at Nodaway Valley Park and Pierce Creek Recreation Area
- Widen trails at Nodaway Valley Park and Pierce Creek Recreation Area and create new maps
- Cut down dead trees at Pioneer Park, Pierce Creek Recreation Area and Rapp Park
- Open up shorelines at Pierce Creek Recreation Area, Rapp Park and Pioneer Park
- Cut larger path for river access here at the office

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

- Build pit toilets at Nodaway Valley Park (1), Ross Park (1) *(to replace the portapot)*
- Tear down bathroom at entrance at Pioneer Park
- Continue to work on widening the trails *(not creating trails in 2026)*
- Create food plots at public hunting areas
- Create a burn plan for Ross Park
- Begin working on removing invasives and create a burn plan at Pierce Creek Recreation Area *(in the public hunting area and prairie area)*
- Cut down any dead trees at Rapp Park, Pierce Creek Recreation Area, and Pioneer Park
- Hire an intern to implement educational programs throughout the summer (and try to get one every year from now on) *(contact college in Maryville)*

Fiscal Year 2027-2028

- Build 2 pit toilets at Rapp Park *(to replace the portapots by the trout pond and place one by the east shelter)*
- Replace bathroom at the top shelter at Pioneer Park and place in a more centrally located area between the 2 shelters and make it a 4 toilet instead of 8
- Continue opening up shorelines at Pierce Creek Recreation Area, Rapp Park and Pioneer Park
- Purchase a skid loader *(yes – badly needed)*
- Build bird watching structure at Rapp Park *(location not determined yet)*
- Build shower building at Pierce Creek Recreation Area equestrian campground *(depending on park usage)*
- Begin creating interpretive trails or scavenger hunt trails or storybook trails
- Try for a grant to dredge Pioneer Park's pond

Fiscal Year 2028-2029

- Start communicating with the public on building a community playground at Pioneer Park or Rapp Park *(suggested to start having communication now to get it into people's minds)*
- Build a new shop here at the office to centrally locate all staff and equipment
- Create more interpretive trails or scavenger trails or storybook trails
- Build pit toilet at Pierce Creek Recreation Area near dam area
- Try for a grant to dredge Pioneer Park's pond

Fiscal Year 2029-2030

- Tear down current office and build an educational nature center/office
- Create more interpretive trails or scavenger hunt trails or storybook trails
- Try for a grant to dredge Pioneer Park's pond

- Build a pit toilet at Pioneer Park

Motion by Cade to approve the 5-year plan as submitted, seconded by James. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Cabins – evaluation of usage and 14- day reservation policy was discussed at length.
Stevens gave a brief statement of usage to date. The 14-day reservation policy ensures that cabins are ready for use and also that the cabin fee has been paid.

Board Chair Stimson, inquired about tracking usage of cabin rentals, tent and RV use.
Director Spunaugle showed the Board a spreadsheet we can use to track the usage and revenue per park.

A discussion was held on setting parameters on board mileage compensation. This needs to be a board decision on what the parameters are. The Director read a portion of Chapter 350 that outlined that the Board members may be compensated for expenses.

Motion by Greenleaf, seconded by James to table discussion on paying mileage.

Motion by Cade, seconded by Brownfield to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting then adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Approved:

Chair_____

Secretary_____