

Iowa County Conservation Board

June 10, 2026 ICCB Minutes

Lake Iowa Nature Center, Ladora IA

Board members in attendance: Parsons, Schumacher, Danaher and (Montross arrived at 6:57)

Board members in absent: Phillips

Staff in attendance: Slings, Minnich and Trickett

Call to Order: at 6:42pm by Schumacher

1) Pledge of Allegiance

2) Approve Agenda - Motion for approval by Parsons, seconded by Schumacher, all voted eye. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Open Forum

- A) Public Comment – None
- B) Board Comment – Parsons said he has been getting a lot of good comments from people about how well maintained everything is in the park.

4) Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2026 meeting – Motion for approval by Parsons, seconded by Schumacher, all voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Approval of May 2026 Bills - Motion for approval by Danaher, seconded by Parsons, all voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

6) Staff Updates:

- a. **Blair**-In May I engaged with the public at the nature center, our parks, and through our social media. I prepared, presented and cleaned up many in-class programs and field trips for all the Iowa county schools, with school program engagement information as follows: Program student participants **845 students, 245 adults, with 1548 contact hours**. Totals for the 2025-2026 school year program engagement information are as follows: Program student participants **5247 students, 744 adults, with 6375 contact hours**. I fed and cleaned the enclosures of our education animals. I attended staff meetings, and the FICCF monthly meeting. I worked on planning and developing lessons for summer programs. I worked on preparations for 2026 Iowa County Outdoor Adventure event.
- b. **Trickett**- Have started beach sampling weekly for E coli. First two tests came back over the acceptable limit, but this last test was under the limit. Installed American flag on flagpole at the park entrance before Memorial Day. Patrolled Memorial Day weekend, had a peak of 110 campers, no issues, everyone was very happy to be able to get out for the weekend and kick off the camping season. Have completed

spraying on campground pads, posts, and around all shelters keeping down on weedy encroachment and lessening our time spent weed eating. Have also gone along the main park road cutting overhanging branches increasing visibility and reducing potential branch collisions with vehicles. The busy season is in full swing, and we have been swinging right along with it.

- c. **Wuebker**- April showers brought May flowers! This statement is ever changing day by day. We are starting to see the fruits of our labor from last fall and this springs burns & brush clearing efforts. Numerous flowers are starting to blossom throughout the park. Some of these include lead plant, purple milkweed, spiderwort, purple coneflower, jack in the pulpit, wild white indigo, prairie rose, common & butterfly milkweed are just a few. This next month we can't wait to see more flowers/plants reach their full potential in these areas. Along with seeing the good in these areas we are also seeing our inundated invasive enemies flourishing. We are just starting to implement brush mowing, spot spraying and boomless foliar herbicide applications to autumn olive, honey suckle, sumac, multiflora rose, crown vetch, lespedeza, and others. Although we have just started, we successfully applied to roughly 9.74 acres. The most rewarding thing is seeing what has been hidden come to life after years of being covered up by overgrown woody plants. Hope everyone has a good Fourth of July! Happy 250th America!

Minnich- This month I continued my regular administrative duties, including processing claims, preparing deposits, paying hotel/motel taxes, answering phone calls, and scheduling reservations. I also organized office files, cleaned the children's area of the Nature Center, and assisted with weeding around the nature center area. I assisted with a field trip at the park, where I led the fishing activity. I also got the campground hosts set up with a laptop and created an Excel sheet for the camping log. While Mary was away, I helped care for the educational animals.

7) Business

- i. **Lake Iowa park - Work around the park:**
 - a. **Campsite grading has been completed.**
 - b. **HVAC work is continued.**
 - c. **Currently spraying: Autumn olive, Crown vetch, lespedeza and Sumac.**
 - d. **Received a Girl Scout Service Award for Iowa County Conservation.**

- e. Pheasant Forever signage has been placed where the new seedlings were planted and those have been mowed.
 - f. Richard Wessels has been helping with some mowing in the park using his 6-foot mower and tractor.
 - g. AED addition to the park has been completed.
 - ii. Pilot Grove:
 - a. John Pearson will be collecting liverwort at Pilot Grove.
 - iii. Gateway Park & Preserve:
 - a. Project updates were discussed.
 - b. Approval of bid recommendation and award of contract for the Gateway park & Preserve project and consideration of the bid tabulation and staff recommendation for the Gateway park project- Motion to approve the bid recommendation and award of contract for the Gateway Park contract to Brian Miller Excavating LLC. as the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$193,457.03 and authorize the director to execute the contract and related documents by Schumacher, & seconded by Montross, all voted eye. Motion passed unanimously. Bids were received and publicly opened on June 8, in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 26. A total of 3 bids were received.
 - c. Tree house was discussed.
 - iv. South Residence Walk through – Board recommended replacing flooring in south residence
- 8) Next Meeting: July 15, 2026 at Lake Iowa Nature Center
- 9) Adjournment – Motion made by Danaher & seconded by Montross to adjourn June 10, 2026 at 7:39pm