# Clay County Conservation Board

## Meeting Minutes

## September 21st, 2026

The Clay County Conservation Board met on September 21st, 2026, at the Oneota Environmental Learning Center with a Zoom Meeting option available. The following participants being present: Sheriffa Jones; Ron Creswell; Hope Bumgarner; John Sheridan; Chris Baker; Kevin Maasseen; and Will Horsley.

**#1. Call to Order –** The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM

**#2. Approval of Agenda –** The meeting agenda was discussed and reviewed. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ron, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

**#3. Public Comments & B.O.S. Liaison Report –** NA

**#4. Approval of Minutes** – The August 10th, 2026, meeting minutes were discussed and reviewed. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Chris, seconded by John, all in favor. Motion carried.

**#5. Director Report –** A report was provided on the current FY budget, IDALS oxbow restoration projects on five CCCB sites, Little Sioux River water trail designation public meetings, Iowa Lakes Community College advisory meetings, the annual REAP report, and the 2026 Outdoor Guide that is being published through a local news source highlighting the CCCB.

**#6. Environmental Education Report –** A report was provided on current and upcoming environmental education programs/courses/camps. There was discussion on the Sundholm Cabin, E.E. exhibits/sessions, and the Nature Store at the Clay County Fair. A report was provided on Clay County Fair clean-up and upcoming E.E. efforts in the local schools and OELC.

**Old Business:**

**#7. FEMA DR-4796-IA –** A report was provided on FEMA and Iowa Homeland Security/Emergency Management. Progress is being made to finalize the remaining three certified projects and the category Z administrative efforts.

**#8. Park and Wildlife Area Update –** A report was provided on the OELC, Oneota Park Playscape, and trails. The OELC classroom space has hosted several training courses to benefit other public service departments and local non-profits organizations. A report was provided on the two upcoming events at Scharnberg Park (S.P.) on October 3rd and October 10th. There was discussion on guest vehicle travel and the logistical route for these two events. The CCCB Staff has made modifications to promote safe and efficient vehicle travel throughout the entire park. There were questions about the Clay County perpetual easement through the neighboring landowner's property directly south of Scharnberg Park. It was reiterated that guest safety is a priority in Scharnberg Park. If Law Enforcement/EMS services were required to respond, they need to be able to take the most direct/unrestricted route to get to the victim in order to potentially save lives.

**New Business:**

**#9. Kindlespire Complex –** A report was provided on the Kindlespire Complex, trails, and the concept of a future Kindlespire Complex Master Plan. On August 31st a meeting was held with a local family who has shown an interest in donating to the betterment of the Kindlespire Complex. The concept of hiring a contractor to design and compose a Kindlespire Complex Master Plan was discussed. The local donor has shown an interest in fiscally supporting this concept and is willing to donate to the Oneota Conservation Foundation (501C3) to support the hiring of a contractor to complete this Master Plan. There was discussion on the Kindlespire Complex and benefit of having this Master Plan to provide long-term recreational goals. Motion by Hope, to approve the continued planning and progression with the local donor and Oneota Conservation Foundation (501C3) to hire a contractor to compose a Kindlespire Complex Master Plan, seconded by Chris, all in favor. Motion carried. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document is currently being drafted. This MOU document was sent and is currently being reviewed by the Clay County legal advisors (Goosemann Law Firm) to ensure all vested parties understand the campaign. The next donor meeting is currently scheduled for October 6th at the Oneota Environmental Learning Center.

**#10. Oneota Conservation Foundation (501C3) –** A report was provided on the OCF members, current public awareness campaign, and upcoming fundraising efforts. There was discussion on the OCF offering annual membership options to individuals/families who would elect to fiscally support environmental education, conservation, and natural resources in Clay County. There was discussion on the challenges of non-profit organizations being able to raise funds as the members are typically volunteers and the fundraising efforts require labor/time. It was suggested to have the CCCB members attend the future OCF meetings in order to continue collaboration. The next OCF meeting will be held on October 7th at the OELC.

**#11. Audit and Approval of Bills –** The CCCB members reviewed all the presented claims from vendors. Motion to approve the presented monthly claims by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

**#12. Adjournment –** Motion to adjourn by Ron, seconded by Hope, all in favor. Motion carried.

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CCCB, Secretary Date