

# Conservation is a contact sport

## Iowans make a difference through the Master Conservationist Program

AMES — The decisions Iowans make about their watersheds affect the people and the communities downstream. That's why Sara O'Connell enrolled in the Master Conservationist Program delivered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

O'Connell is the Youth Corps coordinator for Polk County Conservation and depends on a strong knowledge base to educate the public. She wanted to learn more about all aspects of conservation, as well as connect with other conservation-minded Iowans.

"The Master Conservationist Program introduced me to people who are actively working in conservation, who are local and are members of my own community," she said. "It's very inspiring and it lifts my spirits to know that there's so many of us out there and we're all kind of in this together, gaining a deeper and better understanding."

Her experience is exactly what extension edu-

cators, including wildlife specialist Adam Janke, envisioned when they revitalized the program seven years ago. By working with state and local conservation leaders, ISU Extension and Outreach offers the six-module course in counties across Iowa, with a focus on building local conservation leaders. To date, more than 800 Iowans have completed the program, advancing conservation on thousands of acres of Iowa land.

"I like to say conservation is a contact sport," said Janke. "We need people out there talking to their friends and neighbors about what conservation is, what it takes, and why everybody needs to be involved. This curriculum then just brings people from a really diverse cross-section of Iowa's society together in nature, in the classroom, to learn and build skills that they can use in conversations with friends and neighbors."

### Creating local impact

Participants apply the lessons learned to their own farms or backyards or in neighborhood parks or natural areas. It's all part of an effort to improve Iowa's wildlife, forest, and aquatic ecosystems; water quality; and all of the other important natural resources the state values.

The program includes online and in-person education related to land and water conservation, prairies, forests, aquatic environments, watersheds and land stewardship.

Gina Buelow is the extension natural resources program coordinator in Polk County. The interest is so strong that she offers the program annually. One of her favorite parts is that the lessons apply to all people – whether urban or rural.

ISU Extension and Outreach has offices and staff in all 99 counties, Buelow said. "We're able to reach all corners of the

state and teach people how to be better stewards of our natural resources. We can connect people to make a broad network of conservationists."

### Making the connection

Making the "connection" is one of the key parts of the program, according to Janke. He wants participants to understand that their actions affect others locally and beyond.

"We all live in a watershed," he said. "ISU Extension and Outreach is trying to lead and help people understand how the decisions that they make have impacts on people and communities downstream."

For the Hallagin family of Polk County, the connection was made within their own family. First Karen Hallagin completed the program. A few years later she completed it again with her husband, Lee, and daughter, Josephine.

"After they heard of the things I learned, they wanted to take it as well," said Karen Hallagin. "It

was one more opportunity for us to spend our time outdoors as a family, experiencing the same things and having conversations over and over again."

The Hallagins monitor two bluebird trails in Walnut Woods State Park and Purple Martin Lake, and also coordinate a Girl Scout camp, where they teach young girls lessons about the outdoors and conservation.

"With the lessons learned, we can impact the minds of young Girl Scouts and really get them passionate about the outdoors and conservation," said Josephine Hallagin.

### Experiencing new opportunities

Since the Master Conservationist Program is offered locally, the speakers and topics change, but the focus is always similar. Each participant gets to know and interact with professionals from their own community, including state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and countless other con-

servation volunteers and professionals.

When the program is over, the graduates receive a certificate of completion, along with lessons and connections that can last a lifetime.

"These participants come from all different walks of life," said Janke. "They're farmers, bankers, doctors, lawyers, retired people, young and old, urban and rural. And they all share a common interest in Iowa's environment and improving land and water for future generations."

For more information about participating in the Master Conservationist Program, visit the program website (<https://naturalresources.extension.iastate.edu/programs/master-conservationist>) or contact Adam Janke, [ajanke@iastate.edu](mailto:ajanke@iastate.edu). A dozen programs are either being offered or upcoming across the state this year.

## Legals

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS

The Grundy County Board of Supervisors met in a regular session in the Supervisors' room on July 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order, with the following members present: Nederhoff, Schildroth, and Vandehaar.

The board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Nederhoff and seconded by Vandehaar to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Gary Mauer, County Engineer, reviewed department matters with the board.

Motion was made by Nederhoff and seconded by Schildroth to appoint Jeff Skalberg, County Engineer, to the Grundy County

ARPA Committee. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vandehaar and seconded by Nederhoff to appoint Jeff Skalberg, County Engineer, to the Grundy County Safety Committee. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schildroth and seconded by Vandehaar to appoint Jeff Skalberg, County Engineer, to the Grundy County Health Insurance Committee. Motion carried.

Joan Watson, Veterans Affairs, discussed department matters.

Motion was made by Nederhoff and seconded by Vandehaar to accept the resignation of Gary James, with regret, from the Veterans Affairs Commission. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Nederhoff and seconded by Schildroth to appoint Ron Ross to the

Veterans Affairs Commission. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Nederhoff and seconded by Vandehaar to approve Resolution #7-2024/2025, A Resolution to Approve Additional Disbursement of Funds for the American Rescue Plan Act, as follows: WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the \$109 trillion American Rescue Plan Act, and WHEREAS, Grundy County applied for and has received both the first and second tranche of funds for the American Rescue Plan Act totaling \$2,375,923.00, and WHEREAS, the Grundy County Board of Supervisors has reviewed an additional request and determined that it will qualify for the American Rescue Plan Act, and WHEREAS, based on the distribution guidelines from the U. S.

Department of Treasury, the following project has been approved for the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds: Purchase of furnishings and/or window treatments for the Law Enforcement Center in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grundy County Board of Supervisors endorses the disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act funds for the item listed above and authorizes the County Auditor to make this payment as it is presented. Votes on the resolution were as follows: Ayes - Schildroth, Vandehaar, Nederhoff and Smith. Nays - None. Resolution adopted.

Motion was made by Nederhoff and seconded by Schildroth to approve the request for the use of courthouse grounds by the Grundy Center Chamber for their

Back to School Bash. Motion carried.

Updates on various board and committee meetings were given.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nederhoff and seconded by Vandehaar. Motion carried.

Barbara L. Smith, Chairperson  
Alan T. Tscherter, County Auditor

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L80072 #36380

### Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District Board of Education Regular Meeting Thursday, July 18, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Gladbrook-Reinbeck Board of Education was called to order by Matt Wyatt 6:30 p.m. with the following board members present: Rod Brockett, Christine Farley, Dick Keith, Doug Rowe, Jordan Wentzien (virtual), and Matt Wyatt. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Caleb Bonjour, Secretary-Treasurer Christine Harms, and Shaun Lehmann.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Rowe, second by Keith to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

VISITORS: Jamie Effler, Paige Effler, Leah Holman, Jeff Herzberg, Mark Bystricky, Jennifer Wraga, Trudi Scott, Jayson Garwood, Matt Gillaspie

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Brockett, second by Farley to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0. The consent agenda includes: Approval of Board Minutes from June 25, 2024; Approval of Monthly Bills; Approval of Financial Reports; Approval of Donations, Gifts, and Bequests; Approval of Fundraising Requests.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Keith, second by Rowe to approve the following contracts: Christine Harms as Business Manager, Kurt Luhning as Head Boys Track Coach, Darren Trunk as Elementary Associate, Dan Breyfogle Jr/Sr High principal Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion by Farley, second by Brockett to approve the following handbooks for the 2024-2025 school year: Little Rebels Preschool Family Handbook, Elementary Handbook, Preschool Calendar, Para-Educator Handbook, Faculty Handbook, Junior/Senior Handbook, Motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM: Motion by Keith, second by Farley to set the public hearing for August 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE MILK BIDS FOR THE 2024-2025 YEAR: Motion by Keith, second by Farley to approve the bid Anderson Erickson milk bid for the 2024-2025 year. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE GARBAGE BIDS FOR THE 2024-2025 YEAR: Motion by Farley, second by Brockett to approve the Cooley Sanitation bid for the 2024-2025 year. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE LEGAL COUNSEL: Motion by Rowe, second by Keith to approve Ahlers & Cooney as legal counsel for the Gladbrook-Reinbeck School District for the 2024-2025 year. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE OFFICIAL NEWS-PAPER: Motion by Brockett, second by Farley to approve The Sun Courier as the official publication for the 2024-2025 year. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES: Motion by Rowe, second by Brockett to approve Lincoln Savings Bank, First Interstate Bank, and Iowa Schools Joint Investment Trust as the official depositories for the district. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR BANK SIGNATURE CHANGES: Motion by Keith, second by Brockett to approve Donovan Devore, Caleb Bonjour, Katherine Schildroth, and Christine Harms as signers for the financial institutions. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE BREAD BIDS: No bread bids were received at the time of the meeting. No motion needed.

APPROVE MECHDYNE PUR-

CHASE: Motion by Keith, second by Rowe to approve Mechdyne in the amount of \$23,015.42 to upgrade the sound system in the Junior High-High School Gymnasium. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE HAWKEYE COMMUNITY COLLEGE JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE AGREEMENT: Motion by Farley, second by Brockett to approve the Hawkeye Community College Joint Education Service Agreement. Motion carried 6-0.

AMENDED 2024-2025 CALENDAR: Motion by Keith, second by Brockett to approve the amended calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 6-0.

FACILITY PLANNING UPDATE: Superintendent Bonjour gave an update on the next steps for the SAVE Bond project at the Gladbrook-Reinbeck Elementary School. No motion needed.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Superintendent Bonjour gave an update on exit and stay interviews, the secondary roof, as well as the secondary boys bathrooms.

NEXT MEETING: The next work session is scheduled for August 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm and the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Junior High-High School Commons.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Rowe, second by Farley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0. With no further business to come before the board, Vice President Matt Wyatt adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

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L80043 #36381

### THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR TAMA COUNTY

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MERLYN E. EGGERS, Deceased**  
**CASE NO. ESPR007222**

**NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Merlyn E. Eggers, Deceased, who died on or about January 12, 2023:

You are hereby notified that on July 23, 2024, the Last Will and Testament of Merlyn E. Eggers, deceased, bearing date of November 1, 1972, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Marla J. Eggers was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated July 23, 2024.

Marla J. Eggers,  
Executor of Estate

1777 F Avenue  
Gladbrook, IA 50635

Brent L. Lechtenberg,  
ICIS#: AT0010982  
Attorney for Executor  
Bauch & Lechtenberg Law Office  
601 1st St  
PO Box 57  
Traer, IA 50675

Date of second publication  
August 9, 2024

Published in the Sun Courier Aug 2 and 9, 2024

L80179 #36304

### "Grundy County Agricultural Extension District Published Report - Operating 07/01/2023 to 6/30/2024"

**Beginning Balance and Receipts:**  
Total Balance: July 1, 2023  
Receipts:  
Grant Revenue  
Interest Revenue  
Other Revenue  
Program Fee Revenue  
Property Tax Revenue  
Resale Revenue  
Total Receipts:  
**Total Beginning Balance and Receipts:**  
**Disbursements:**

	\$168,805.68
Grant Revenue	\$5,050.00
Interest Revenue	\$192.76
Other Revenue	\$249.20
Program Fee Revenue	\$38,408.41
Property Tax Revenue	\$253,445.71
Resale Revenue	\$890.00
Total Receipts:	\$298,236.08
<b>Total Beginning Balance and Receipts:</b>	<b>\$467,041.76</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Aatrix-E-File Expense	\$49.90
Amazon-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$1,077.52
Andrea Traeger-Net Wages and Travel	\$39,287.99
Andrew Hommel-Grant Expense	\$600.00
Ashley A. Bruene-Net Wages and Travel	\$34,406.26
AssuredPartners Great Plains, LLC-Program Fee Expense	\$361.75
Barbara Cunningham-Net Wages and Travel	\$37.57
BarLea Root Event Center-Non-Tax Meals Expense	\$196.00
Becky Bonnette-Facility Expense	\$1,500.00
Bell Rogers-Program Fee Expense	\$72.81
Black Hawk County Extension-Program Fee Expense	\$100.00
Blessing Edittu-Program Fee Expense	\$100.00
Brandy Bingman-Net Wages and Travel	\$25,539.51
Bria Steinmeyer-Program Fee Expense	\$150.00
Brothers Market-Marketing Expense	\$1,872.08
Casey's-Meeting Expense	\$304.01
Cedar Bend Humane Society-Prior Year Adjustment	(\$50.00)
Christian Meester-Program Fee Expense	\$12.23
City of Dike - Dike Library-Program Fee Expense	\$35.00
City of Grundy Center-Facility Expense	\$19,340.81
Colton Rogers-Grant Expense	\$50.00
Column Software PBC-Advertising Expense	\$90.48
Copy Systems-Postage Expense	\$199.15
Cora Berends-Program Fee Expense	\$150.00
Cornfed Designs-Program Fee Expense	\$260.00
Deb Lizer-Program Fee Expense	\$135.00
Delaney Petersen-Program Fee Expense	\$100.00
Dollar General-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$169.87
Dyllinn Blohm-Program Fee Expense	\$100.00
Fabric Wholesale Direct-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$52.78
Fareway-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$4.48
Farm News-Marketing Expense	\$85.00
First Advantage-Background Checks Expense	\$1,457.38
Gateway Hotel-Other Travel Expense	\$399.84
Gibson Specialty Co.-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$1,209.60
Grandstay Suites-Other Travel Expense	\$99.68
Grundy Center Chamber of Commerce-Memberships, Dues Expense	\$250.00
Grundy Center Community Center-Facility Expense	\$600.00
Grundy Center Community Schools-Equipment Expense	\$155.00
Grundy Center FFA-Program Fee Expense	\$356.39
Grundy Center Municipal Utilities-Telecommunications Expense	\$959.40
Grundy County Community Foundation-Grant Expense	\$1,000.00
Grundy County Fair Board-Meeting Expense	\$40.00
Grundy County Farm Bureau-Marketing Expense	\$250.00
Grundy Mutual Insurance-Insurance, Bond Expense	\$666.67
Grundy National Bank-Program Fee Expense	\$500.00
Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy-Program Fee Expense	\$180.00
Hardin County Extension-Program Fee Expense	\$198.00
Hayden Gutknecht-Program Fee Expense	\$9.17
Heather A. Henning-Net Wages and Travel	\$422.15
Hen & Chick Studio-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$115.04
Hobby Lobby-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$189.13
Holland Bulb Farms-Program Fee Expense	\$24.69
Hutch Screen Printing & Embroidering-Resale Expense	\$780.00
Iowa Extension Council Association-Memberships, Dues Expense	\$315.00
Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman-Advertising Expense	\$140.00
Iowa Public Employee Retirement System-Retirement Plan	\$20,954.34

Iowa State University-Shared Support, Benefits, Materials	\$35,954.98
Isabell M. Rogers-Net Wages and Travel	\$3,234.99
JoAnn Fabrics-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$123.35
John Deere Financial-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$624.12
Justina Brant-Program Fee Expense	\$195.00
KanBan Task Board-Supplies Expense	\$17.95
Katie Lubbert-Program Fee Expense	\$132.28
Kelly Eilderts-Program Fee Expense	\$125.00
Kwik Star-Program Fee Expense	\$5.98
Landmark Bistro-Meeting Expense	\$549.54
Liz Rogers-Grant Expense	\$408.68
Marshall County Extension-Program Fee Expense	\$560.00
Martin Brothers Distributing-Marketing Expense	\$643.73
Menards-Supplies Expense	\$3.58
Mid-America Publishing Corporation-Advertising Expense	\$449.82
Molly's Custom Silver-Program Fee Expense	\$3,312.68
National 4-H Council Supply Service-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$214.00
Natural Grind-Non-Tax Meals Expense	\$91.25
Norby's Farm Fleet-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$84.78
Off Fire, LLC-Facility Expense	\$52.00
Office of Auditor of State-Audit Expense	\$1,322.40
Olivia Petullo-Program Fee Expense	\$9.17
Patrick Brown-Grant Expense	\$600.00
Pens.com-Marketing Expense	\$700.18
Printing Services, Inc.-Program Fee Expense	\$2,393.72
Progressive Agriculture Foundation-Professional Development Training Expense	\$75.00
Quadient, Inc.-Postage Expense	\$1,677.52
RK Dixon-Equipment Expense	\$27.69
Rockin 5K BBQ-Non-Tax Meals Expense	\$107.00
Ruth Wilcox-Other Travel Expense	\$81.02
Ryan Traeger-Program Fee Expense	\$150.00
Sam's Club-Program Fee Expense	\$908.63
Sarah O'Donnell-Program Fee Expense	\$150.00
Shari M. Sell-Bakker-Net Wages and Travel	\$5,901.21
Sherwin Williams-Supplies Expense	\$61.97
Sidney Schafer-Grant Expense	\$600.00
Sign Pro-Marketing Expense	\$365.00
Signature Signs-Program Fee Expense	\$6,784.00
Staples-Equipment Expense	\$119.29
Storey Kenworthy-Supplies Expense	\$1,590.71
Subway-Program Fee Expense	\$129.65
Sun Courier-Memberships, Dues Expense	\$65.00
Tama County Extension-Marketing Expense	\$442.66
Tama/Grundy Publishing-Advertising Expense	\$223.44
Target-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$67.10
Teresa R. Stansbury-Net Wages and Travel	\$1,860.82
The Farm Store-Program Fee Expense	\$219.00
The UPS Store-Postage Expense	\$69.47
Theisen's-Marketing Expense	\$104.94
Treasurer State of Iowa-Payroll Taxes	\$4,340.00
U-Line-Equipment Expense	\$319.98
UniFirst Corporation-Facility Expense	\$603.98
United States Postal Service-Postage Expense	\$57.98
United States Treasury-Payroll Taxes	\$28,028.02
US Cellular-Telecommunications Expense	\$980.79
Wal-Mart Super Center-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$295.46
Wes Beenken-Meeting Expense	\$195.00
William Rogers-Program Fee Expense	\$150.00
Windstream Iowa Communications-Telecommunications Expense	\$2,117.32
Wristband.com-Non-Fee Proj Act Expense	\$118.54
Xerox Financial Services-Equipment Expense	\$4,029.10
<b>Total Disbursements:</b>	<b>(\$272,488.15)</b>
<b>Net Balance: June 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$194,553.61</b>

<b>Grundy County Agricultural Extension District Published Report - Agency 07/01/2023 to 6/30/2024"</b>	
Balance: July 1, 2023	\$1,534.15
Total Receipts	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	(\$1,534.15)
<b>Balance: June 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### STATE OF IOWA - Grundy County

I, Bill Noteboom, Chair, and I, Christine Tobias, Treasurer of the Grundy County Agricultural Extension Council, being duly sworn on oath, state to the best of our knowledge and belief, that the items included in the foregoing Financial Report are true and correct statement of receipts and expenditures of the Grundy County Agricultural Extension Fund.

Signed Bill Noteboom, Chair  
Signed Christine Tobias, Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 29th day of July, 2024.

Anne Tedore, Commission # 840327  
Notary Public"