

# 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."

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 Schil-droth 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 Schil-droth to appoint Jeff Skalberg, County Engineer, to the Grundy County

### 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, Schil-droth, 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 Schil-droth to appoint Jeff Skalberg, County Engineer, to the Grundy County

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 - Schil-droth, Vandehaar, Nederhoff

and Smith. Nays - None. Resolution adopted.

Motion was made by Nederhoff and seconded by Schil-droth 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 Eiffler, Paige Eiffler, Leah Holman, Jeff Herzberg, Mark Bystricky, Jennifer Wrage, 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 Fundraiser Requests.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Keith, second by Rowe to approve the following contracts: Christine Harms as Business Manager, Kurt Luhring 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 DEPOSITORY: 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 Schil-droth, 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

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.

APPROVE 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 boys bathroom.

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 Merlin 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 Merlin 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 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 to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

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### STATE OF IOWA - Grundy County

#### BEGINNING BALANCE AND RECEIPTS:

Total Balance: July 1, 2023

Receipts:

Grant Revenue