

MEEKER COUNTY PARK BOARD COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Present: Braden Piram, Lorlane 'Butch' Schmeling, Donald Konietzko, Paul Fank, Kim Ertl, Bob Pederson, and Roger Ekert

Butch Schmeling called the meeting to order at 8:57 a.m.

A motion was made by Bob Pederson to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2025, meeting, seconded by Roger Ekert. Motion carried.

1. Stockade Annual Report

- a. Longtime leader of the Forest City Stockage, Bob Hermann, passed away in January.
- b. Brady has initiated a conversation with key members of the Stockage committee to discuss ongoing plans for finances, grounds upkeep, events, and tours. We will hopefully be able to have them attend the March meeting.
- c. They currently have two \$3,000.00 payments left on their loan with the county, totalling \$6,000, with the final payment due in 2027.

2. Wat-Kim-Valley VFW Pickleball Court Request at Shaw Memorial

- a. The VFW group has not indicated any further details about how much they are willing to contribute to this proposed project. Brady will follow up with them.
- b. If they are interested in providing some type of support to a county park for the local community, outside of the pickleball court, there may be better options that would be used more. One idea would be an additional shelter at Shaw Memorial Park.

3. 2026 Budget

- a. Budget meetings went well, with the final budget approved.
- b. \$50,000.00 for a new playground at West Ripley Park. Brady is also going to inquire about possible contributions to the playground by the Spirit of Ripley campground, given their proximity to the park and the high level of use by campers.
- c. Koronis commercial mower.
- d. Koronis road upgrades.
- e. General line items remained mostly the same.
- f. Project from 2025: The main shelter at West Ripley still needs to be finished. The lumber yard has been having trouble sourcing a vendor for the stainless steel surfaces that are required when food is being served. The funds will carry over to 2026 with hopes to complete the project this winter/early spring.

4. Koronis Seasonal Employee

- a. Steve Trapp has retired after 14 years with the Meeker County Parks Department.
- b. The position, which is a 7-month seasonal position, will be posted soon.
- c. If the search fails, Brady will explore a hybrid position with the highway or maintenance departments.

5. Joint Powers Committee Update

- a. General park updates
- b. The committee voted on an increase in camping rates by \$5.00 each:
 - i. Tent site: \$25.00
 - ii. RV site: \$45.00
 - iii. Cabin: \$75.00

- c. A motion was made by Roger Ekert to approve the increases, seconded by Don Konietzko. Motion carried.
- d. Brady is still waiting for the sample agreement from the DNR for the boat landing project, which is on hold until it is received.

6. Other Business

- a. Don inquired about the possibility of doing park tours or education when meetings are canceled due to a lack of business. This frequently happens in July and November.
- b. Paul Johnson (County Commissioner) with the Manuella Lake Association, expressed an interest in helping to fund some play equipment at the Manuella swim beach. There are concerns about enough space for this in the park.
- c. The landing project at the Lake Frances property has been completed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. by Don Konietzko, seconded by Roger Ekert. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Braden Piram, Meeker County Parks Manager