

MEEKER COUNTY PARK BOARD COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

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 8:55 a.m.

A motion was made by Roger Ekert to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, meeting, seconded by Bob Pederson. Motion carried.

An amendment was made to the agenda, adding the Watkins-Kimball VFW's request for a pickleball court

1. Storm Damage

- a. Back-to-back storms caused a large amount of damage on the south side of Koronis. At least 38 trees, plus additional ones in the woods that went down, caused damage to the park, campground, seasonal camper, solar unit, wood shelter, and shop.
- b. Brady hired an emergency tree service, Patriot Tree Service, for \$54,000 to help with the cleanup due to 12 trees that required special equipment to remove.
- c. A claim was made with insurance to help cover the cost of the building damage.
- d. The cost will be split 50/50 with Stearns County and we will have to use some of our fund balance to help cover the expense.

2. Park Updates

- a. The day before the meeting, Koronis, Finnish and Clear Lake were also hit with storms that caused damage. Koronis was the worst with trees down & uprooted.
- b. Mowing & trimming nonstop.
- c. Starting to paint tables.
- d. Rain has affected reservations with increased cancellations.
- e. Adjusted docs due to increased rainfall.

3. Hutchinson Archery Club

- a. The group reached out about using Woodland for a 3D shoot. The turnout was good & everything went well, will probably become a yearly event.

4. Lake Frances Boat Landing Project

- a. Tim contacted Brady about the boat landing. The county owns it and it is in need of some work. The lake association wants to help with a 50/50 split on the material expense.
- b. The project included adding gravel and extending the asphalt apron due to erosion.
- c. It was a great cooperative project costing \$8,000, \$4,000 of which will be paid by the lake association.

5. 2026 Budget Discussion

- a. The budget is moving forward as proposed, with the park fund balance helping toward the playground.
- b. No cuts at this time.

6. Koronis & Manuella boat landing updates

- a. Manuella
 - i. Widening the secondary entrance to the north.
 - ii. Park & boat access will be shared access.
 - iii. Slowly moving forward with the project.
- b. Koronis

- i. The process is moving slowly with no agreement having been signed yet, resulting in no construction starting at this time.
- ii. Funding for the project is still in place.

7. Annual Park Report

- a. The annual report was presented to the Meeker County Commissioners. Included was how the campground is doing year-to-date, updates on current projects and status of the parks, updates on the Utility purchase for Koronis, and cooperative projects.
- b. The board thanked Brady, his staff and the Meeker County Park Board.
- c. There were good questions and comments from the board, including one commissioner who was not familiar with the size of our county park system.

8. Wat-Kim-Valley VFW Pickleball Court Request

- a. Members from the Wat-Kim-Valley VFW (Watkins, Kimball & Eden Valley) reached out about putting in a pickleball court at Shaw Memorial Park.
- b. There had been one there, but it was removed due to lack of use.
- c. The cost to install a new court is around \$20,000, including the asphalt & fencing.
- d. There were concerns shared about the expense for the potential of not being used. The possibility of a study to gauge interest was mentioned.
- e. Brady will inquire about what they may be willing to contribute to the project.
- f. Discussion tabled for the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 a.m. by Kim Ertl, seconded by Don Lonietzko. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Braden Piram, Meeker County Parks Manager