

Black Hawk County Conservation Board Minutes

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Josh Balk, Vice-President, at 5:00 PM.

Roll call members present: Josh Balk, Terri Rogers, Mike Bonser & Jon McNamee.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Staff Present:

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator
Al Finke, South Unit Ranger
Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager

Jodi Rutledge, Clerical III
Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II

AGENDA

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Bonser to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

MINUTES

Motion by Balk, seconded by Bonser to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025, board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Balk to approve the bills submitted. Motion Carried.

VISITORS

Michelle Weidner, BHC Finance Director

Gabbi DeWitt, BHC Marketing Coordinator

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – Mike Hendrickson

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Rogers to accept the resignation of Will Souer, effective April 11, 2025. Motion Carried.

BIG WOODS LAKE JOINT BOARD UPDATE – Jon McNamee

The Joint Board met at 3:00 PM on April 3, 2025. The Board passed motions to elect Jon McNamee as Chair & Jenny Murphy as Vice-Chair of the Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board and approve the by-laws. The Board also discussed current maintenance projects, the FY25 & FY26 budgets and proposed campground expansion.

PROJECT UPDATE PRESENTATION – Mike Hendrickson/Cherrie Northrup

Staff updated the Board on the many ongoing projects that are currently in progress.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Jim Weimer

Staff have been working on a new Landowner Assistance Program brochure. Staff have also been working on planting & prairie burning.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Karl Kozak/Al Finke*

North Unit:

Staff have been busy helping with prairie burning & getting the parks ready for the recreation season. The campgrounds opened for the season on April 1st.

South Unit:

Staff have been busy with the spring cleaning of the cabins, shelters & Lakeview Lodge. Staff has also found a water leak at Hickory Hills Park & will be working on the repair.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Staff have been busy with school field trips & planning summer camps. Staff has hired three AmeriCorp students and a research intern for the summer. On May 21, 2025, there will be a native plant sale at Hartman Reserve.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

The Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority will be meeting at Hickory Hills Park on April 17th; staff will give an overview & tour of the Casey Lake Renovation Project. On March 27th, Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District presented the 2025 Woodland Manager Award to Black Hawk County Conservation staff. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

None.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Rogers to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Adjourned 5:42 PM.

JODI RUTLEDGE

DATE