

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board  
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, August 14, 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, Jon McNamee & Mike Bonser.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

**Staff Present:**

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director  
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator  
Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager  
Trevor Davis, Ranger II

Nichole Koelling, Office Manager  
Al Finke, South Unit Ranger  
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2025, board meeting. Motion Carried.

**BILLS**

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to approve the bills submitted. Motion Carried.

**VISITORS**

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney

**VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:**

None.

**REAP LETTERS OF SUPPORT** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to acknowledge support of the three REAP Grant projects: *City of Cedar Falls – Big Woods Lake Campground Expansion, City of Evansdale – Angel's Park at Myers Lake Water Quality Improvement Project & City of Dunkerton – Amphitheater and Sustainable Landscaping Project* and the submittal of the letters of support for said projects. Motion Carried.

**CEDAR FALLS HEALTH TRUST FUND GRANT** – *Amy Davison*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to authorize staff to apply for a Cedar Falls Health Trust Fund Grant for School of the Wild. Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION: ROTARY RESERVE LEASE RENEWAL** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution:

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the renewal of the lease agreement with the Waterloo Rotary Club for the Rotary Reserve Lodge located at 5932 N. Union Road, Cedar Falls, IA for a period of 10 years expiring on August 31, 2035. Furthermore, the Board authorizes the Board Vice-Chair and Executive Director to sign the lease agreement document.

AYES: Bonser, Balk, McNamee.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION: HARTMAN RESERVE STAIRWAY QUOTE** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to move the following resolution:

Black Hawk County Conservation Board acknowledges and agrees with the acceptance of the quote provided by Veracity Excavation in the amount of \$24,100 for the replacement of the railroad tie stairway at Hartman Reserve understanding that the work is necessary to maintain safe infrastructure for public use. Said work will be funded through the Hartman Reserve Trust Fund and REAP allocation funds.

AYES: Balk, Bonser, McNamee.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION: TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT, THUNDERWOMAN WILDLIFE**

**AREA** – Mike Hendrickson

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution:

Black Hawk County Conservation Board authorizes execution of the Temporary Construction Easement for project #3027 BRS-C007(176)—60-07 affecting a 15' x 140' strip of land along Winslow Road within the boundaries of Thunderwoman Wildlife Area for the purposes of grading work associated with a roadway bridge construction project. Furthermore, the Board authorizes the Executive Director to sign the Temporary Construction Easement document.

AYES: McNamee, Bonser, Balk.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION: BIG WOODS LAKE CAMPGROUND EXPANSION** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to move the following resolution:

Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves the use of REAP allocation funds to contribute towards the Big Woods Lake Campground Expansion Project. Furthermore, Black Hawk County Conservation authorizes the commitment of up to and not to exceed \$50,000 of County Conservation REAP allocation funds to be utilized towards Big Woods Lake Campground Expansion Project expenses.

AYES: Bonser, Balk, McNamee.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**PARK SIGNAGE** – *Cherrie Northrup*

No action was taken.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** – *Jim Weimer*

Staff have been busy with Cedar Valley Nature Trail storm clean-up & Black Hawk Park flood clean-up. Staff have also been working on a new brochure for the Landowner Assistance Program.

**UNIT RANGER REPORTS** – *Karl Kozak/Al Finke*

**North Unit:**

No report.

**South Unit:**

Staff have been busy with Cedar Valley Nature Trail storm clean-up, invasive species removal & mowing. Casey Lake still needs about 30" of water to be full. The Bluegill are already spawning in Casey Lake!

**NATURE CENTER REPORT** – *Amy Davison*

Staff have one more summer camp on August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Nature in your Neighborhood end of the year bash will be August 15<sup>th</sup> from 5PM-7PM at Greenbelt Lake. Staff will have a booth at Cedar Valley Pride Fest on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. A \$5,000.00 gift from the Catherine Livingston fund was received to help with the School of the Wild program expenses.

**DIRECTORS REPORT** – *Mike Hendrickson*

The Executive Director will be attending the Iowa State Association of Counties annual conference. A written report was submitted.

**ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD**

None.

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

Adjourned 5:50 PM.

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NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE