

Black Hawk County Conservation Board Minutes

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Jon McNamee, Vice-President, at 5:00 PM.

Roll call members present: Bob Boeck, Mike Bonser & Terri Rogers.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Staff Present:

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director
Nichole Koelling, Office Manager
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator
Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger
Al Finke, South Unit Ranger
Amy Davison, Hartman Center Manager

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026, board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

OATH OF OFFICE – *Mike Hendrickson*

Board member Bob Boeck took the oath of office and was sworn in by the Executive Director.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – *Mike Hendrickson*

No action was taken.

NON-BARGAINING WAGES – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck to authorize a 3% Cost of Living increase & applicable merit increases for the non-bargaining employees effective July 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Boeck, seconded by Rogers to authorize Al Finke, South Unit Ranger and Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger to sign documents in the Executive Directors absence from July 27, 2026 to August 9, 2026. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION – HEINEMAN CONSERVATION EASEMENT AMENDMENT #1 – Mike Hendrickson

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck, to move the following resolution:

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the First Amendment to the Grant of Conservation Easement for Michael R. and Jane R. Heineman dated July 14, 2020, and recorded in Black Hawk County as File No. 2021-00000919 pending acceptance and written approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers including execution of Exhibit A to be attached to the First Amendment. The written approval from USACE shall be received and attached by reference to the First Amendment document prior to execution and recording of the First Amendment to Grant of Conservation Easement document.

AYES: Rogers, McNamee, Boeck.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION – ACCEPT PARK ENTRANCE SIGNS PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE

– *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Boeck, seconded by Rogers, to move the following resolution:

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Park Entrance Signs project as substantially complete and recommends that the contract balance of \$30,585.28, be paid to Nagel Signs, Inc.

AYES: McNamee, Boeck, Rogers.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

FEE SCHEDULE APPROVAL FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY SCHOOLS – Mike Hendrickson/Amy Davison

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck to approve the following Hartman Reserve Nature Center Field Trip/Program fee schedule:

In-County Schools: Cost covered by The Friends of Hartman Reserve

- Cities included: Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Evansdale, Gilbertville, Hudson, Janesville, Jesup, LaPorte City, Raymond and Waterloo.
- Guided Program \$50/hour (materials included)

Out-of-County Schools:

- Guided Program \$50/hour (materials included)

Motion Carried.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Jim Weimer

No report was submitted.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – Karl Kozak/Al Finke

North Unit:

The Memorial Day holiday weekend was very busy! The shade sails have been installed on the rustic cabins in Big Woods Lake Campground. Staff participated in dive team training with the rescue boat.

South Unit:

Staff have been busy with park maintenance & are preparing to pour the new sidewalk for the Sunset Shelter next week. Staff shared pictures of the new baby bison & goats.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Staff have been busy with summer camps; most of the summer camps are full. Work has started on the Amphitheater remodel project. Staff planted 10 new trees in Lucy's Meadow.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

The 2026 REAP assembly will be held on June 17th at the UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Chapter 21.5, Section. I of the Iowa Code) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck, to go into executive session to evaluate the professional competence of the Executive Director.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck to go out of executive session. Motion carried.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck to authorize a 3% Cost of Living increase, a 1% merit increase & a 6% equity adjustment for the Executive Director effective July 1, 2026, as approved and budgeted by the BHC Board of Supervisors. Motion Carried.

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

Adjourned 6:40 PM.

NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE