

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board  
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, January 8, 2026, 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: Terri Rogers, Mike Bonser, Jon McNamee & Josh Balk.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

**Staff Present:**

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director  
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator  
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II  
Al Finke, South Unit Ranger

Nichole Koelling, Office Manager  
Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager  
Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Rogers to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025, board meeting. Motion Carried.

**BILLS**

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

**VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:**

None.

**OATH OF OFFICE** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Board members Josh Balk, Terri Rogers, Jon McNamee, and Mike Bonser took the oath of office and were sworn in by the Executive Director.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to elect Josh Balk, President; Jon McNamee, Vice-President and Mike Bonser, Secretary. Motion Carried.

**REVIEW OF BY-LAWS** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to approve the by-laws with no changes. Motion Carried.

**FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT APPROVAL** – *Nikki Koelling*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Rogers to approve the FY2025 annual report as submitted. Motion Carried.

**APPROVE HIRE OF NATURALIST I, HARTMAN RESERVE** – *Amy Davison*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Rogers to accept Amelia Bothwell to fill the position of Naturalist I effective January 19, 2026. Motion Carried.

**CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY** – *Nikki Koelling*

The Cedar Bend Humane Society currently has a MOU with Black Hawk County Conservation Board to use the Administrative Office and shop as an emergency pet rescue center during a regional disaster. Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to allow the agreement to roll over for another year. Motion Carried.

**CEDAR VALLEY ASSOCIATION FOR SOFT TRAILS (CVA)** – *Amy Davison*

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to allow the existing agreement to roll over for another year and to continue allowing CVA to maintain soft trails for mountain bikes in the Hartman Reserve area. Motion Carried.

**FRIENDS OF THE GILBERTVILLE DEPOT** – *Al Finke*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to renew the lease of the Gilbertville Depot to the Friends of the Gilbertville Depot for 2026. Motion Carried.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** – *Jim Weimer*

Staff have been working on honeysuckle removal at Hickory Hills Park. The warmer weather has not been conducive to the planned tree harvest in Black Hawk Creek Greenbelt.

**UNIT RANGER REPORTS** – *Karl Kozak*

**North Unit:**

Staff have been busy taking down the lights from the Holiday Light Show. Staff have also been busy with cutting firewood, snow removal & building maintenance.

**South Unit:**

Staff have been busy taking down the lights from the Holiday Light Show. There is a pre-construction meeting scheduled on January 9, 2026, for the siding project at Hickory Hills Park. The cabin furniture is getting reupholstered.

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

Staff have been busy planning Spring Break & Summer Camp programming. Staff have also been preparing for Maple Syrup Festival. Maple Syrup Festival will be held on March 6, 7 & 8, 2026.

**DIRECTORS REPORT** – *Mike Hendrickson*

The budget process for FY27 has started; staff will present to the BHC Board of Supervisors on January 20, 2026. A written report was submitted.

**ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD**

None.

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

Adjourned 5:28 PM.

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NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE