

Black Hawk County Conservation Board Minutes

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, May 8, 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.

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

Nichole Koelling, Office Manager
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 Bonser, seconded by Rogers to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2025, board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITORS

Michelle Weidner, BHC Finance Director
Attorney

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK, OPEN & TABULATE BIDS – Mike Hendrickson

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Bonser to authorize staff to seek, open and tabulate bids for the equipment & services budgeted in the FY26 budget: 1-ton truck, mower, boom lift, utility vehicle replacement for North Unit, tool cat replacement for McFarlane Park, security lighting upgrade for Hickory Hills Park, replacement of Sunset Shelter at Hickory Hills Park, siding replacement for Lakeview Lodge and Whitetail Cabin, paving at McFarlane Park, Admin. Office and Hickory Hills, asphalt sealing on the CVNT, and park sign design, construction & installation project. Motion Carried.

SET PUBLIC HEARING, PARK SIGNAGE PROJECT – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Rogers to authorize setting a public hearing for the Park Signage Project at 5:00PM on July 10, 2025, and authorize publication of the Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION: ACCEPT THE MCFARLANE PARK SEPTIC REPLACEMENT PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE – *Cherrie Northrup*

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the McFarlane Park Septic System Replacement project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that, upon acceptance by the Board of Supervisors, the contract balance of \$5,000.00 be paid to Sedenka Excavating and Habitat, LLC utilizing the American Rescue Plan funds. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approves the same.

AYES: Bonser, Balk, Rogers.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION: ACCEPT THE BEAVER VALLEY WETLAND VIEWING PLATFORM PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE – *Cherrie Northrup*

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Beaver Valley Wetland Viewing Platform project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board authorizes the contract balance of \$4,641.75 to be paid to N.B. Koch General Contractors, Inc.

AYES: Balk, Rogers, Bonser.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION: ACCEPT THE BLACK HAWK PARK TRUCK SHED ROOF REPAIR PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE – *Cherrie Northrup*

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Black Hawk Park Truck Shed Roof Repairs project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board authorizes payment of the contract balance of \$1,692.22 to Robert Miller Construction, LLC.

AYES: Rogers, Bonser, Balk.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

APPROVE HIRE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST I – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Rogers to accept the transfer of Tanner Archer from the South Unit Maintenance II position to the Wildlife Conservationist I position. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MIDLLOWA COOPERATIVE TRAIL CROSSING PLANS – Mike

Hendrickson

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the trail crossing plans and specifications as provided by Midlowa Cooperative of LaPorte City and CGA Engineers for the proposed Coop roadway crossing in LaPorte City, east of Spruce Street on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

AYES: Bonser, Balk, Rogers.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION: MIDLLOWA COOPERATIVE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT – Mike

Hendrickson

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves the Temporary Construction Easement for the purpose of constructing a roadway crossing, culvert installation, tree clearing and grading, east of Spruce Street in LaPorte City on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail as outlined within the easement documents and project plans. Furthermore, the Conservation Board authorizes the Executive Director to sign the same.

AYES: Balk, Rogers, Bonser.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION: MIDLLOWA COOPERATIVE INGRESS/EGRESS EASEMENT – Mike

Hendrickson

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves the Permanent Ingress/Egress Easement east of Spruce Street in LaPorte City on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail for the purpose of ingress and egress of Midlowa Cooperative and for the maintenance of said easement area and roadway as outlined in the easement documents. Furthermore, the Conservation Board authorizes the Executive Director to sign the same.

AYES: Rogers, Bonser, Balk.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Jim Weimer

Staff has completed between 140 & 150 acres of Landowner Assistance Program plantings.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Karl Kozak/Al Finke*

North Unit:

The campground shower buildings are open for the season. Staff fixed a water leak in Big Woods Lake Campground. Seasonal staff have been hired & will be starting over the next couple of weeks.

South Unit:

Staff have been busy with replacing the electrical hook-ups in the group campgrounds, mowing, facility maintenance & water line replacement. An update was given on the Casey Lake Restoration Project.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Staff have been busy with school field trips. On May 21, 2025, there will be a native plant sale at Hartman Reserve. Hannah Hamilton, the new Naturalist I, will be starting on June 9, 2025. The play area has been closed until after field trip season due to misuse. The Hare family will be making a significant memorial donation to remodel the Amphitheater.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

Noah Riker graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on April 25th. Staff helped stock 11,250 Bluegills on May 7th at Casey Lake. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

None.

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

Adjourned 5:42 PM.

NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE