

Black Hawk County Conservation Board Minutes

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Josh Balk, President, at 5:00 PM.

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

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Staff Present:

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director
Nichole Koelling, Office Manager
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator
Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II
Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger
Trevor Davis, Ranger II

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2026, 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 member Travis Turpin took the oath of office and was sworn in by the Executive Director.

RESOLUTION – HICKORY HILLS MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT RENEWAL – *Mike Hendrickson*

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the renewal of the Management Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for management of 175 acres +/- adjacent to Hickory Hills Park for an additional 25 years expiring on December 31, 2050, and for the Board Vice-Chair to sign the same.

AYES: Rogers, Bonser, Turpin, Balk, McNamee.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION – HRNC AMPHITHEATER – *Cherrie Northrup*

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the concept plan and quote submitted by Great Southern Recreation of Grimes, IA, in the amount of \$118,067.04 for the acquisition and installation of a 30' x 30', tapered, monoslope, surface mounted, steel, amphitheater shelter at Hartman Reserve Nature Center including area grading to ADA specifications, construction of a concrete stage & stairs, and acquisition and placement of compacted crushed stone and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the same subject to permitting.

Furthermore, Said Board acknowledges that the contract will be funded wholly with private funds donated specifically for this project and Black Hawk County will contribute no funds towards this contract consistent with Iowa Code section 26.6 as the donor has requested.

AYES: Rogers, Balk, Bonser, Turpin, McNamee.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

CHANGE DATE OF MARCH BOARD MEETING – *Mike Hendrickson*

The March Black Hawk County Conservation Board meeting will be moved to March 10, 2026 at 5:00PM.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

Staff have been working on honeysuckle removal at Hickory Hills Park. The tree harvest in Black Hawk Creek Greenbelt is almost done. Staff have been conducting interviews for the Natural Resource Intern position.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Karl Kozak/Trevor Davis*

North Unit:

Staff helped with the Ice Harvest Festival on February 7, 2026, at Big Woods Lake. Staff have been busy with park maintenance & cutting firewood.

South Unit:

The siding project at Hickory Hills Park has started. Staff have been busy with fence line work, honeysuckle removal & clearing brush on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Maple Syrup Festival will be held on March 6, 7 & 8, 2026; there are only about 180 tickets left. Staff have begun tapping trees for sap. Staff have also been busy planning spring break & summer programming.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

None.

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

Adjourned 5:40 PM.