Black Hawk County Conservation Board Minutes

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Mike Bonser, President, at 5:04 PM.

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

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
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II
Ben Rindels, Ranger III

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

MINUTES
Motion by McNamee, seconded by Turpin to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2026, board meeting. Motion Carried.

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

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:
None.

***RESOLUTION* – COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH DNR FOR CASEY LAKE ALUM TREATMENT** – *Cherrie Northrup*
Motion by Rogers, seconded by Turpin, to move the following resolution:
Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Cost-Share Cooperative Agreement #27CRDLWBBDODD-0006 with the Iowa DNR Lakes Restoration Program to share costs of the Alum Treatment to Casey Lake located at Hickory Hills Park. Cost share will be 75% DNR, 25% BHC with the Iowa DNR invoicing Black Hawk County 25% or $66,064.50 of the treatment contract cost of $264,258.00. Said treatment contract is held by and between the Iowa DNR and Solitude Lake Management of Rochester, MN. Board authorizes entering into the Cost-Share Cooperative Agreement and for the Executive Director to sign the same.

AYES: Turpin, Rogers, Bonser, McNamee, Boeck.
NAYS: None.
Resolution adopted.

***RESOLUTION* – HARTMAN RESERVE STAIR REPLACEMENT BIDS** – *Cherrie Northup*
Motion by McNamee, seconded by Rogers, to move the following resolution:
Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the LOWEST REASONABLE BID submitted by Schares Landscaping, LLC. of Jesup, IA in the amount of $42,489.90 and awards contract, subject to receipt of all required documents and bonds, for the purpose of providing all materials, labor, equipment, methods & means to complete the outdoor stairway replacement east of the Interpretive Center at Hartman Reserve as outlined in the Request for Proposal.

AYES: Rogers, Bonser, McNamee, Boeck, Turpin.
NAYS: None.
Resolution adopted.

***RESOLUTION* – BLACK HAWK PARK RESIDENCE ROOF REPLACEMENT BIDS** – *Cherrie Northrup*
Motion by Turpin, seconded by McNamee, to move the following resolution:
Black Hawk County Conservation Board rejects the bid received for Black Hawk Park Residence Roof Replacement Project due to the only bid received exceeding the project budget and authorizes staff to re-bid the project at a later date.

AYES: Bonser, McNamee, Boeck, Turpin, Rogers.
NAYS: None.
Resolution adopted.

***RESOLUTION* – LIVESTOCK WATERLINES AND LIMITED CROSSING EASEMENT** – *Mike Hendrickson*
Motion by McNamee, seconded by Turpin, to move the following resolution:
Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves and authorizes the livestock waterline and limited crossing Easement between Black Hawk County Conservation and Chad Hoffman, subject to Assistant County Attorney approval for all language contained in the easement. The easement is for the purpose of providing the landowners the ability to install and maintain animal watering utilities under the Cedar Valley Nature Trail in two locations in Buchanan County but that which is owned and managed by Black Hawk County, while setting forth stipulations that protect, in perpetuity, the integrity of the trail, its subsoils and surfacing. In addition, the said easement allows for cattle crossing over the trail utilizing the same, defined southern waterline easement location. Said livestock waterline and limited crossing easement will be executed by the Conservation Board Chair on behalf of the Conservation Board, the landowner; Chad Hoffman, notarized and then recorded with the Buchanan County recorder at the request of Black Hawk County.

AYES: McNamee, Boeck, Turpin, Rogers, Bonser.
NAYS: None.
Resolution adopted.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – *Mike Hendrickson*
Motion by Rogers, seconded by Boeck to accept the letter of resignation from Alan Finke, effective January 4, 2027. Motion Carried.

OXBOW PROJECT – *Mike Hendrickson*
Motion by McNamee, seconded by Rogers to table the oxbow project discussion until the next meeting. Motion Carried.

BIG WOODS LAKE CAMPGROUND JOINT BOARD UPDATE – *Jon McNamee/Terri Rogers*
The Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board met on October 1, 2026. The Board reviewed the current FY27 budget, the campground expansion & maintenance issues. Mike Hendrickson & Chase Schrage were appointed to the by-law nominating committee.

BLACK HAWK PARK CAMPGROUND CROSSING PROJECT UPDATE – *Cherrie Northrup*
Due to the recent heavy rains, the contractors for the Black Hawk Park Campground Crossing Replacement project were unable to start as intended on Monday, October 5 due to high water. This project has a tight window and includes a penalty of $2,000/day past the project completion date of October 30, 2026. The contractor is planning to start the week of October 12th and could still potentially complete the project by the current deadline. However, if the contractor finds that they are unable to complete the project by the current deadline due to the unforeseen weather delay, staff will ask the Board for a change order to extend the contract by one week.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*
Landowner assistance projects have been picking up. Staff have been busy working on replacing the deck in Lucy's Meadow.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Karl Kozak/Al Finke*
North Unit:
Halloween in the parks was September 26th at Big Woods. Unfortunately, Halloween at Black Hawk Park was cancelled due to flooding. Staff have been busy winterizing the parks, mowing & park maintenance.

South Unit:
Halloween in the parks was September 19th at Hickory Hills & September 26th at McFarlane Park. Staff have been busy with mowing & preparing for the disc golf course improvements.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*
There are two weeks left of School of the Wild. Under the Harvest Moon will be held on October 30th. Woodland Wonderland will be held at Hartman Reserve on December 11th & 12th.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*
On October 14, 2026, there will be a presentation on Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund at the Rotary Reserve. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD
None.

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

Adjourned 5:39 PM.

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NICHOLE KOELLING DATE