

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board  
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Terri Rogers, President, at 5:00 PM.

Roll call members present: Jenny Murphy, Mike Bonser, Terri Rogers & Adam Sacquitne.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

**Staff Present:**

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director	Nikki Koelling, Office Manager
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator	Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger
Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II	

**AGENDA**

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

**MINUTES**

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024, board meeting. Motion Carried.

**BILLS**

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the bills submitted. Motion Carried.

**VISITORS**

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney

**VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:**

None.

**NON-BARGAINING WAGES** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the increase for the Conservation non-bargaining individuals for FY25 as approved and budgeted by the BHC Board of Supervisors. Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR REAP GRANT** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: A resolution of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa approving application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program for Hartman Bluff Preserve, Stream Restoration Project Funding.

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa owns and maintains the Hartman Reserve Nature Center, in which contains the 46-acre Hartman Bluff Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa is investing in watershed, and water quality improvements and resource preservation measures in the Hartman Bluff Preserve to maintain this unique, high-quality resource; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa needs additional financial assistance to complete this important project; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this Stream Restoration is critical to the protection, sustainability and overall health of this unique area at Hartman Bluff Preserve; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa, authorizes the funding application to be submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program for the Hartman Bluff Preserve, Stream Restoration Project.

AYES: Bonser, Sacquitne, Rogers, Murphy.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**APPROVE PLANS/SET PUBLIC HEARING, CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL, DIVISION 2, PAVING PROJECT** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the project plans for bid letting for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 2, Paving Project, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00PM on July 11, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

**APPROVE PLANS/SET PUBLIC HEARING, MCFARLANE PARK SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to approve the project plans for bid letting for the McFarlane Park Septic System Replacement Project, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00PM on July 11, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate.

**RESOLUTION – SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT #1 WITH AECOM – HRNC STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation accepts and approves supplemental agreement #1 with AECOM for Final Design and Bidding Services for the Hartman Preserve Stream Restoration Project with a cost of *Not to Exceed*, \$64,300.00 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the same.

AYES: Murphy, Rogers, Sacquitne, Bonser.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – ACCEPT BLACK HAWK PARK SHOWER RENOVATION PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Black Hawk Park Shower Facility Renovation project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the contract balance of \$78,983.00 be paid to Steege Construction utilizing the American Rescue Plan funding. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same.

AYES: Bonser, Sacquitne, Rogers, Murphy.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – ACCEPT HICKORY HILLS WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Hickory Hills Wastewater Improvement project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the project balance of \$3,763.00 be released to Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating utilizing the American Rescue Plan funding. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same.

AYES: Murphy, Rogers, Sacquitne, Bonser.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**BLACK HAWK PARK RESIDENCE HVAC BIDS** – *Karl Kozak*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the bid of \$7,656.32 from Hudson Hardware, Plumbing & Heating for the Black Hawk Park Ranger Residence HVAC system replacement. Motion Carried.

**FOLDING WING MOWER DECK BIDS** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to approve the bid of \$17,880.00 from P & K Midwest, Inc for the purchase of a pull behind, folding wing mower deck. Motion Carried.

**BIG WOODS WI-FI TRENCHING BIDS** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the bid of \$8,321.00 from Hoffman & Hoffman Trenching, Inc for installation of conduit & fiber optic cable at Big Woods Lake Campground. Motion Carried.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** – *Jim Weimer*

Staff is finishing up with CRP plantings; flooding has slowed the process. Staff plans to start mowing prairie soon.

**UNIT RANGER REPORTS** – *Al Finke/Karl Kozak*

**North Unit:**

Black Hawk Park & Siggelkow Park are currently closed due to flooding. Staff plans on reopening Siggelkow Park tomorrow & hope to open Black Hawk Park next week.

**South Unit:**

Staff poured the concrete pads at Hickory Hills Park & McFarlane Park for new ADA playgrounds. Staff have also been busy with mowing & park maintenance. The Casey Lake Restoration Project is going well.

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

The new bus is amazing! Staff are developing a new family area at Hartman in memory of the Schmidt Family. Staff along with CrawDaddy Outdoors & the Walleye Club will be hosting an event for veterans & current military families at Big Woods on August 18th.

**DIRECTORS REPORT** – *Mike Hendrickson*

The Cedar Valley Nature Trail projects are moving along as expected; paving is set to begin next week. Jim Weimer received a 30-year service award from the BHC Board of Supervisors. A written report was submitted.

**ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD**

Board members thanked Adam Sacquitne for his service on the Black Hawk County Conservation Board; he will be missed!

**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 Bonser, seconded by Murphy to go into executive session to evaluate the professional competency of the Executive Director.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to go out of executive session. Motion carried.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to authorize a 3% Cost of Living increase for the Executive Director effective July 1, 2024, as approved and budgeted by the BHC Board of Supervisors. Motion Carried.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Adjourned 6:18 PM.

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NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE