

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Jenny Murphy, Vice President, at 5:01 PM.

Roll call members present: Jenny Murphy, Jon McNamee & 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	Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager
Al Finke, South Unit Ranger	

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024, board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITORS

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney Michelle, Weidner, BHC Finance Director

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

APPROVE HIRE OF NORTH UNIT RANGER II – *Karl Kozak*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to accept Noah Ricker to fill the position of Ranger II subject to the passing of all pre-employment testing. Motion Carried.

APPROVE HIRE OF NATURALIST I, HRNC – *Amy Davison*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to accept Sarah Beckman to fill the position of Naturalist I. Motion Carried.

TRUCK BIDS – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to approve the bid of \$35,213.00 from Thys Automotive Group for a truck. Motion Carried.

BLACK HAWK PARK ROOF REPAIR BIDS – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the bid of \$19,242.00 from Tiquila Construction for Black Hawk Park truck shed roof repairs. Motion Carried.

TREE PULLER ATTACHMENT QUOTES – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the quote of \$5,640.00 from Quick Attach Attachments for a tree puller attachment. Motion Carried.

SEEK, OPEN AND TABULATE BIDS FOR PRAIRIE HAY – *Jim Weimer*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to authorize staff to seek, open & tabulate bids for prairie hay.
Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A WATER RECREATION ACCESS COST-SHARE GRANT – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne 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, Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program for Hickory Hills Park boating amenity improvement project funding.

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation, Black Hawk County, Iowa owns and maintains Hickory Hills Park, in Tama County, in which contains the 39-acre Casey Lake; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa is investing in watershed, and water quality improvements through Restoration of Casey Lake 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 the boating amenity improvements is a vital part of improving and expanding recreational opportunities at the park and providing for more opportunities for people to interact with the water; 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 Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program for the Hickory Hills Park Boating Amenity Improvement Project.

AYES: Sacquitne, Murphy, McNamee.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

Staff has been working on a Forest Management Plan for Black Hawk Creek Greenbelt. Staff has also been busy with tree & shoulder clearing along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Al Finke/Karl Kozak*

North Unit:

All of the parks have reopened & camping has been steady. Staff poured the concrete slab for the new playground at Black Hawk Park. Staff has also been busy cleaning up the access areas & with general park maintenance.

South Unit:

Installation of the new playgrounds has started at Hickory Hills Park & McFarlane Park. Staff has been busy hauling rock, moving the goats & with general park maintenance. There was a hailstorm on July 15th that caused damage to vehicles & the shop roof at Hickory Hills Park. The new storm siren has been installed & is operational at Hickory Hills Park.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Summer programs are almost done; attendance was great. Staff has been busy planning fall programming. There will be a native plant sale on September 18th at Hartman. The Under the Harvest Moon fundraiser will take place on November 2nd.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

There will be a special Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board meeting on September 5th. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

Jenny Murphy asked for an update on scuba diving at Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area.

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

Adjourned 5:43 PM.

NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE