

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, September 12, 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: Mike Bonser, Josh Balk, Jenny Murphy, Jon McNamee & Terri Rogers.

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 Bonser to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

MINUTES

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024, board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITORS

Michelle Weidner, BHC Finance Director	Dan Kimball, AECOM
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VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

OATH OF OFFICE – *Mike Hendrickson*

Board member Josh Balk took the oath of office and was sworn in by the Executive Director.

SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to authorize Al Finke, South Unit Ranger and Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger to sign documents in the Executive Directors absence from September 16, 2024 – September 20, 2024. Motion Carried.

PRAIRIE HAY BIDS – *Jim Weimer*

No bids were received; no action was taken.

ATV SPRAY UNIT QUOTES – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the quote of \$5,295.44 from Forestry Suppliers, Inc for a skid mounted spray unit. Motion Carried.

SNOWPLOW ATTACHMENT BIDS – *Karl Kozak*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Balk to approve the quote of \$7,850.00 from Olsgard Auto for a snowplow attachment to be used with Truck #1. Motion Carried.

PURCHASE OF SEMI TRACTOR – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to approve the quote of \$46,050.00 from Freightliner Truck Center for a used semi tractor. Motion Carried.

SECURITY CAMERA PROPOSALS – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to approve the proposal of \$55,418.43 from Heartland Business Systems for cloud-based security cameras including a 5-year licensing term. Motion Carried.

APPROVE PLANS & SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE BEAVER VALLEY WETLAND

OBSERVATION PLATFORM PROJECT – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to approve the Beaver Valley Wetland Observation Platform Project plans, specifications and cost estimate for bid letting, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00PM on October 10, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION: CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL DIVISION 1, PAVING – CHANGE ORDER #2 –

Cherrie Northrup

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

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves Change Order #2 – Final, for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 1, Paving contract with Bruening Rock Products, Inc. in the amount of -\$27,276.78 as determined through quantity verifications by the project engineer and utilizing American Rescue Plan funds and Destination Iowa funds subject to receipt of all signed paperwork from contractor. Change Order #2 – Final, will reduce the current contract amount as adjusted by previous contact amendment #1, from \$1,839,452.31 to \$1,812,175.53. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION: ACCEPT CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL, DIVISION 1, PAVING PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Balk to move the following resolution:

Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Division 1, Paving project on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail as substantially complete subject to receipt of all signed paperwork from the contractor. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that, upon acceptance by the Board of Supervisors, Pay App #7-Final, containing the project retainage of \$90,608.78 be released 30 days later utilizing the American Rescue Plan and Destination Iowa funds. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

REVIEW OF EMERGENCY SUCCESSION PLAN – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to approve the Emergency Succession Plan for another year with no changes. Motion Carried.

SPECIAL BIG WOODS LAKE CAMPGROUND JOINT BOARD MEETING UPDATE – *Jon McNamee'*

Jenny Murphy

The Joint Board met at 3:00 PM on September 5, 2024. The Board voted to approve the campground expansion final design as proposed.

APPROVAL OF BLACK HAWK CREEK WILDLIFE AREA FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – *Jim*

Weimer

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to approve the Black Hawk Creek Wildlife Area Forest Management Plan and authorize staff to proceed with implementation. Motion Carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK, OPEN, TABULATE TSI PROPOSALS, BLACK HAWK CREEK

WILDLIFE AREA – *Jim Weimer*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to authorize staff to seek, open and tabulate Timber Stand Improvement proposals for Black Hawk Creek Wildlife Area when timing and weather allow. Motion Carried.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

Staff has been working with Bill Haywood on marking trees in Black Hawk Park as a part of the Forest Management Plan. Whitetails Unlimited donated \$6,000.00 for the West Fork addition for habitat improvement.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Al Finke/Karl Kozak*

North Unit:

Noah Riker is the new Ranger II for the North Unit. Staff has been busy mowing, cutting firewood & with other routine maintenance. The annual Halloween weekends in the parks are coming up at the end of the month.

South Unit:

Staff has been busy with routine maintenance and trail work at Hickory Hills Park. The Casey Lake Restoration Project is moving along nicely. Camping has been slow due to the lake being empty.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

School of the Wild started this week. There will be a native plant sale at Hartman on September 18th. Staff has been busy with planning Halloween programs, adult bus trips & nature therapy. Under the Harvest Moon will take place on November 1st.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

The biannual Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board meeting will be on October 3rd. The Cedar Valley Nature Trail paving completion ribbon cutting will be on October 4th. Law enforcement staff will be attending CCPOA on October 8th & 9th. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

None.

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

Adjourned 6:12 PM.