

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Mike Bonser, President, at 5:00 PM.

Roll call members present: Jon McNamee, Mike Bonser, Jenny Murphy & Adam Sacquitne.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Staff Present:

Al Finke, South Unit Ranger

Nikki Koelling, Office Manager

Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator

Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Murphy to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023 board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITORS

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

CHANGE MAY BOARD MEETING DATE – *Al Finke*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Murphy to move the May Black Hawk County Conservation Board meeting date to May 10, 2023, at 5PM. Motion Carried.

SET PUBLIC HEARING, ADA COMPLIANT PLAYGROUNDS PROJECT – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to set the Public Hearing for the ADA Compliant Playgrounds Project on May 10, 2023, at 5:00PM and authorize staff to publish the Notice of Public Hearing. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION – HARTMAN RESERVE NATURE CENTER ARTWORK PURCHASE AGREEMENT – *Amy Davison*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves the purchase agreement with Caylin Graham in the amount of \$3,500 for artwork that will be featured on aluminum panels to be mounted and displayed in the bird's nest structure outside of the nature center for the foreseeable future and authorizes the Nature Center Manager to sign said purchase agreement.

AYES: Murphy, McNamee, Sacquitne, Bonser.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

BIG WOODS LAKE JOINT BOARD UPDATE– *Jenny Murphy/Jon McNamee*

The Joint Board met at 3:00 PM on April 6, 2023. The Board passed motions to elect Leslie Nixon as Chair & Jon McNamee as Vice-Chair of the Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board and approve the by-laws. The Board also discussed current maintenance projects, the FY23 & FY24 budgets, campground expansion & the addition of another modern cabin (on hold due to rising costs & staffing shortages).

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

No report.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Al Finke*

North Unit:

No report.

South Unit:

South Unit staff has been busy getting the parks ready for the camping season & various maintenance projects. The campgrounds & shower buildings are open. Staff also did a prairie burn at Cedar Island Wildlife Area. The attendant is moving in at Cedar River Natural Resource Area on Saturday.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

School field trip season has started. Staff has been interviewing candidates for the vacant Naturalist II position & hopes to make an offer next week. The new Naturalist I position is scheduled to be filled after July 1, 2023. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System towers are going to be installed at Hartman Reserve, Siggelkow Park & McFarlane Park.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

There will be an informational meeting scheduled for the Casey Lake Restoration Project. The Hickory Hills Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project has begun. There has been great progress made on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Division I Project. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

Jenny Murphy had a citizen speak with her regarding the boat ramps at Black Hawk Park & Washington Union Access.

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

Adjourned 5:24 PM.

NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE