

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board  
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, April 11, 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: Jon McNamee, 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	Al Finke, South Unit Ranger
Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger	Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II
Katie Klus, Naturalist III	

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024, board meeting. Motion Carried.

**BILLS**

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

**VISITORS**

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney	Michelle Weidner, BHC Finance Director
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**VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:**

None.

**PRESENTATION – MID IOWA COOPERATIVE, PROPOSED CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL ROADWAY CROSSING**

Ron Groskreutz, COO of MidIowa Cooperative, presented an overview of a proposed project for a new access road to the MidIowa Coop facility on the southeast edge of LaPorte City that would cross the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

**RESOLUTION – CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, TEMPORARY EASEMENT** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board grants a Temporary Construction Easement to the City of Cedar Falls for an approximate 7' strip of land along the east side of E. Ridgewood Drive; the temporary easement area contains 2,480 square feet and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the same.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, PERMANENT EASEMENT** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board grants a Permanent Storm Water and Drainage Easement to the City of Cedar Falls for the construction of two storm water outlet structures on parcel #8913-18-278-004 and for the ongoing maintenance of said structures into the future for the purpose of discharge and drainage from City storm sewer infrastructure through and across the easement area into natural waterways; the easement area contains a total of 1,173 square feet and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the same.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, TEMPORARY RIGHT OF ENTRY** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board grants a Temporary Right of Entry to the City of Cedar Falls for the purpose of clearing and grubbing existing vegetation and grading to install additional rock check on the downstream side of the two storm sewer outlets and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the same.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION – CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION** – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors authorize the sale of a strip of land to the City of Cedar Falls along the east side of E. Ridgewood Drive for additional roadway right of way to widen the roadway and address drainage issues; the acquisition area contains 4,579 square feet.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

**SAW LOG BIDS** – *Jim Weimer*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to approve the bid from Weiland and Sons in the amount of \$9,030.00 for the sale of saw logs. Motion Carried.

**LOG SPLITTER BIDS** – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the quote of \$16,050.00 from Widman Motorcycle Sales, Inc for a professional grade log splitter. Motion Carried.

**OUT OF STATE TRAVEL** – *Karl Kozak*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to authorize a Black Hawk County Conservation staff member to travel out of state with a county vehicle for the purpose of picking up the log splitter in St. Louis, Missouri. Motion Carried.

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

The Joint Board met at 3:00 PM on April 4, 2024. The Board passed motions to elect Mike Hendrickson as Chair & Chase Schrage as Vice-Chair of the Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board and approve the by-laws. The Board also discussed current maintenance projects, the FY24 & FY25 budgets and proposed campground expansion.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** – *Jim Weimer*

Wildlife staff have been busy with TSI work in various areas. Ethan Hennings is the new Natural Resources Intern; he started March 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

**North Unit:**

Staff has been busy getting the campgrounds open for the season; the water will be turned on at Big Woods in a couple of weeks. Applications are being accepted for the vacant Park Ranger II position. All of the seasonal positions have been filled for the summer; they will begin in May.

**South Unit:**

The Casey Lake Restoration Project is going well! Staff has been busy getting the campgrounds open for the season; the shower buildings will be opening on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff are working to locate a water leak at Hickory Hills Park.

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

Staff has been busy with school field trips & planning summer camps. Staff has hired four AmeriCorp students and a research intern for the summer.

**DIRECTORS REPORT** – *Mike Hendrickson*

The budget process for FY25 is almost complete. Staff presented the new logo to the Board. A written report was submitted.

**ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD**

None.

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

Adjourned 6:20 PM.

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NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE