

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, January 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, Mike Bonser, Terri Rogers & Adam Sacquitne.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Staff Present:

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

Nikki Koelling, Office Manager
Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager
Al Finke, South Unit Ranger

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023, board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITORS

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

OATH OF OFFICE – *Mike Hendrickson*

Board members Adam Sacquitne, Terri Rogers, Jon McNamee, and Mike Bonser took the oath of office and were sworn in by the Executive Director.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to elect Terri Rogers, President; Jenny Murphy, Vice-President and Adam Sacquitne, Secretary. Motion Carried.

REVIEW OF BY-LAWS – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the by-laws with no changes. Motion Carried.

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT – *Nikki Koelling*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the FY2023 annual report as submitted. Motion Carried. Resolution adopted.

APPROVE PLANS & SET PUBLIC HEARING, ADMIN OFFICE HVAC – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to approve the Administrative Office HVAC project plans for bid letting, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00 PM on February 8, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate.

RESOLUTION – BLACK HAWK PARK SHOWER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS BIDS – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the LOWEST REASONABLE BID submitted by Steege Construction, Inc. of Waverly, IA, in the amount of \$78,983.00 and utilizing American Rescue Plan funding for the purposes of maintaining the critical infrastructure at Black Hawk Park to meet the demands of the increased park usage. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and award the contract to Steege Construction, Inc.

AYES: Sacquitne, Rogers, Bonser, McNamee.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY – *Nikki Koelling*

The CBHS currently has a MOU with Black Hawk County Conservation Board to use the Administrative Offices and shop as an emergency pet rescue center during a regional disaster. Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to allow the agreement to roll over for another year. Motion Carried.

CEDAR VALLEY ASSOCIATION FOR SOFT TRAILS (CVAST) – *Amy Davison*

A written report on CVAST activities was provided by Josh Collins. Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to allow the existing agreement to roll over for another year and to continue allowing CVAST to maintain soft trails for mountain bikes in Hartman Reserve Nature Center. Motion Carried.

FRIENDS OF THE GILBERTVILLE DEPOT – *Al Finke*

The 2023 Annual Report of the Friends of the Gilbertville Depot was provided to the Board. Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to renew the lease of the Gilbertville Depot to the Friends of the Gilbertville Depot for 2024. Motion Carried.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

Wildlife staff have been busy with prairie planting. Staff have also been working on a forest management plan for Black Hawk Park & plans for enhancing the other wildlife areas.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Al Finke/Karl Kozak*

North Unit:

Staff have been busy helping with the Holiday Light Show tear down, cutting firewood, snow removal & prairie burns.

South Unit:

A progress report was given on the Casey Lake Restoration Project. Staff have been busy with the Holiday Light Show tear down, building maintenance & snow removal.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Staff have been busy with numerous small programs, preparing for spring programming and Maple Syrup Festival planning. Maple Syrup Festival will be March 8, 9 & 10.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

Due to inclement weather, REAP congress has been moved to next week. The Board of Supervisors will begin hearing department presentations for the FY25 budget soon. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

None.

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

Adjourned 5:30 PM.

NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE