

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 1346 West Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA. The meeting was called to order by Jon McNamee, Chair, at 5:00 PM.

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

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Staff Present:

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director	Nikki Koelling, Office Manager
Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger	Al Finke, South Unit Ranger
Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator	Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II
Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager	Trevor Davis, Ranger II
Josh Smith, Natural Resource Intern	

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022 board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITORS

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney	Linda Laylin, BHC Board of Supervisors
Josh Balk, BH Metro Disc Golf League	Brett Klemp, BH Metro Disc Golf League
Nathan Schmid, BH Metro Disc Golf League	Amanda Fesenmeyer, BHC Human Resource Director

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

PRESENTATION – HICKORY HILLS DISK GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS – *Josh Balk*

Josh Balk, Black Hawk Metro Disc Golf League, presented a plan to expand the disc golf course at Hickory Hills Park. The consensus of the board was to move forward with the project and provide a letter of support to BHMDGL for the project.

PUBLIC HEARING – HICKORY HILLS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS (5:05PM)

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to open the public hearing for Hickory Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements at 5:21 PM.

No verbal or written comments were received.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to close the public hearing at 5:21 PM. Motion Carried.

SEEK, OPEN AND TABULATE BIDS - *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to authorize staff to seek, open & tabulate bids for the following items that have been approved for the FY23 budget: Hartman Reserve Nature Center erosion control engineering, Black Hawk Park lift station rehabilitation & Black Hawk Park asphalt road repairs. Motion Carried.

BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the 2-year contract extension with AFSCME-Unit 7 effective July 1, 2022. Motion Carried.

NON-BARGAINING WAGES – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to authorize a 3% Cost of Living increase & applicable merit increases for the non-bargaining employees effective July 1, 2022. Motion Carried.

HICKORY HILLS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT BIDS –
Cherrie Northrup

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to reject all bids received for the Hickory Hills Wastewater Facility Improvement Project. All bids exceeded the budget for the project; this project will be rebid at a future date. Motion Carried.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

Wildlife Staff has been busy with mowing access areas, trails for firebreaks and pollinator plantings. Staff also planted 24 trees & shrubs in Lucy's Meadow. Josh Smith is the new wildlife intern & will be designing fish habitat structure for Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Al Finke/Karl Kozak*

North Unit:

The camping season has been busy. North Unit staff cleared the fire trail & installed three memorial benches along with normal park maintenance. Staff has also been working with volunteer groups & has completed many projects. Three seasonals have been hired for the camping season.

South Unit:

South Unit Staff has been busy mowing & clearing trees along the CVNT. Memorial Day weekend was very busy in the parks; usage numbers were fantastic. The dump station at Hickory Hills Park is currently down & will be repaired soon. Staff also poured new patio decks for the Lakeview cabins; 2 of the 3 are done. Trevor Davis is the new Ranger II at Hickory Hills Park.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Field trip season has ended; staff hosted 2500 kids in 40 days! Fishing derbies were held at Hickory Hills Park & Big Woods Lake Campground on June 4th; over 60 kids attended. Staff hired four AmeriCorp summer interns to help with summer camps & private field trips. Summer camps are starting & the 1st Dining on the Deck event is June 17th. Volunteers have been a big help with grooming & mulching the trails.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

Due to on-going production & supply chain delays, the new truck purchase that was approved for FY22 is not expected to arrive until sometime in FY23. A written report was submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Chapter 21.5, Section. I of the Iowa Code) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to go into executive session to evaluate the professional competency of the Executive Director.

Yes-McNamee, Yes-Murphy, Yes-Bonser. Motion Carried.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to go out of executive session. Motion carried.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to authorize a 3% Cost of Living increase & applicable merit increase for the Executive Director effective July 1, 2022. Motion Carried.

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

Adjourned 6:50 PM.

NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE