

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, February 8, 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
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 McNamee, seconded by Bonser to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024, board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

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

VISITORS

Heather Prendergast, Assistant County Attorney Michelle Weidner, BHC Finance Director

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING: 5:00PM – ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to open the public hearing for the Administrative Office HVAC System Replacement Project at 5:01 PM.

No verbal or written comments were received.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to close the public hearing at 5:01 PM.

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: 5:00PM – COMMERCIAL ADA PLAYGROUND DESIGN, PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION PROJECT

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to open the public hearing for the Commercial ADA Playground Design, Procurement & Installation Project at 5:01 PM.

No verbal or written comments were received.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to close the public hearing at 5:02 PM.

Motion Carried.

OATH OF OFFICE – *Mike Hendrickson*

Board member Jenny Murphy took the oath of office and was sworn in by the Executive Director.

APPROVE PLANS & SET PUBLIC HEARING; CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL, DIVISION 2 STRUCTURES AND PAVING PROJECT – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to approve the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 2 Structures and Paving Project plans for bid letting, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00PM on March 14, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION – ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT BIDS – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to table the resolution until the next Board meeting. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION – COMMERCIAL ADA PLAYGROUND PROPOSALS – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board moves that the PROPOSAL received by Play-Pro Recreation of Clive, IA for designing, procuring, and installing ADA compliant playground equipment and safety surfacing at four Black Hawk County Parks for a cost Not to Exceed \$240,000 be accepted utilizing American Rescue Plan funding for these purposes. This project will serve to ensure that all children, regardless of ability level or demographics, are afforded access to safe playground equipment and the opportunity to play, socialize, and gain cognitive and motor skills even in times of uncertainty. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and enter into contract with Play-Pro Recreation for these said services.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A SILOS & SMOKESTACKS GRANT – *Amy Davison*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to authorize staff to apply for a Silos & Smokestacks Grant in the amount of \$3,508.00 for an intern position. Motion Carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A GUERNSEY GRANT – *Amy Davison*

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to authorize staff to apply for a Guernsey Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for *School of the Wild*. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION – CO-AWARDEE AGREEMENT FOR DESTINATION IOWA GRANT – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves entering into a Co-Awardee Agreement with Linn County for the purposes of administration of the Destination Iowa Outdoor Recreation Grant and for the Executive Director to sign the same, subject to final verbiage approval by legal counsel for both Counties.

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

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted.

APPROVAL OF BLACK HAWK PARK FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – *Jim Weimer*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to approve the Black Hawk Park Forest Management Plan and authorize staff to proceed with implementation. Motion Carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK, OPEN, TABULATE TSI PROPOSALS, BLACK HAWK PARK – *Jim Weimer*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to authorize staff to seek, open and tabulate bids for harvested logs that result from the Timber Stand Improvement project in Black Hawk Park. Motion Carried.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

Wildlife staff have been busy with ash tree removal, exhibit work & TSI work in various areas.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Al Finke/Karl Kozak*

North Unit:

Staff have been busy helping with ash tree removal, snow removal & park maintenance.

South Unit:

Staff have been busy helping with ash tree removal, and cabin & building maintenance. Staff also updated the Board on the Casey Lake Restoration Project.

NATURE CENTER REPORT – *Amy Davison*

Staff have been busy with programs, preparing for spring break programming, exhibit work and Maple Syrup Festival planning. Maple Syrup Festival will be March 8, 9 & 10. Staff plan to tap trees on February 26th.

DIRECTORS REPORT – *Mike Hendrickson*

Conservation presented the FY25 draft budget to the Board of Supervisors last week; the budget has not been finalized yet. A written report was submitted.

ANY REPORTS OR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

None.

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

Adjourned 5:47 PM.

NICHOLE KOELLING

DATE