

**Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Minutes**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board met on Thursday, April 8, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Rafferty, Chair, at 5:01 PM.

Roll call members present: Mike Bonser, Jenny Murphy & Carolyn Rafferty.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Staff Present:

Nikki Koelling, Office Manager

Karl Kozak, North Unit Ranger

Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist II

Amy Davison, Nature Center Manager

Mike Hendrickson, Executive Director

Cherrie Northrup, Planning Administrator

Al Finke, South Unit Ranger

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 March 11, 2021 board meeting. Motion Carried.

BILLS

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the bills as submitted & authorize the Executive Director to sign the approval sheets. Motion Carried.

VISITORS

Mike Treinen, Assistant County Attorney

Bob Recker

Jenn Bruns

Linda Laylin, BHC Board of Supervisors

Joel Bishop

VISITOR(S) CONCERNS:

None.

RESOLUTION FOR RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT AUTHORIZATION – *Cherrie*

Northrup

Motion by Bonser to adopt a resolution to approve applying for a COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program Grant to pave a 3.2 mile section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail; including agreeing to the terms of the funding & 20 year maintenance agreement and authorizing the Board Chair and Executive Director to sign the same.

AYES: Bonser, Rafferty, Murphy.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted. Motion Carried.

MOU WITH INRCOG – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to authorize the Executive Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with INRCOG for grant writing services for a COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program Grant to pave a 3.2 mile section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. If the grant is successful, BHCCB will pay INRCOG up to 1.5% of the funds awarded up to \$2000.00; if unsuccessful BHCCB pays nothing to INRCOG. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION – CASEBEER NATURAL AREA – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser to adopt a resolution to approve transferring title to the real estate known as Casebeer Natural Area, to the City of Evansdale, following approval by the Board of Supervisors, and to authorize Mike Hendrickson to sign all documentation necessary to accomplish this transfer.

AYES: Murphy, Rafferty, Bonser.

NAYS: None.

Resolution adopted. Motion Carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK, OPEN AND TABULATE – ROTARY RESERVE PAVING – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to authorize staff to seek, open & tabulate bids for paving the Rotary Reserve lane and parking lot. Motion Carried.

SET PUBLIC HEARING – ROTARY RESERVE PAVING – *Cherrie Northrup*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to set a public hearing for paving the Rotary Reserve lane and parking lot on May 13, 2021 at 5:05 PM. Motion Carried.

BIG WOODS LAKE JOINT BOARD UPDATE – *Jenny Murphy*

The Joint Board met at 3:30 PM on April 1, 2021. The Board passed motions to approve allowing reservations for two more lake front campsites with a one week minimum requirement, re-elect Jenny Murphy as Chair & Brian Heath as Vice-Chair of the Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board and approve the by-laws. The Board also discussed the Big Woods Cabin use, the possibility of constructing another modern cabin and the FY21 & FY22 budgets.

BIG WOODS CAMPGROUND RESERVATION SITES – *Mike Hendrickson*

The Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board made the decision to allow reservations on a trial basis for two additional lake front campsites. Campers will be required to reserve a minimum of one week with a maximum of two weeks. This trial basis will conclude on September 30th.

TURKEY RIDGE DIVE SITE MANAGEMENT TEAM – *Mike Hendrickson*

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to authorize staff to send a non-renewal letter to the Turkey Ridge Dive Site Management Team that ends the agreement & authorize the Board Chair to sign the same. Motion Carried.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – *Jim Weimer*

Wildlife staff has been busy with spring prairie burns. The Friends of Black Hawk County Conservation Endowment Committee met & discussed past & future projects, the internship program & possible field days.

UNIT RANGER REPORTS – *Al Finke/Karl Kozak*

South Unit staff has been busy getting the parks ready for the camping season. The campgrounds & shower buildings are open. Staff has also been making preparations for the campground road getting paved & stump cutting on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The attendant has moved in at Cedar River Natural Resource Area. John & Jean Hager and Escapes Landscape & Design donated four 5' white pine trees that were planted at the entrance to the campground in Hickory Hills Park. These trees were donated for the Holiday Light Show.

North Unit staff has been busy getting the parks ready for the camping season. The campgrounds are open; however the water has not been turned on yet at Big Woods Lake Campground. Staff has also been busy helping with prairie burns.

NATURE CENTER MANAGER REPORT – Amy Davison

Maple Syrup Madness is done & staff was able to collect 20 gallons of syrup. Staff has been busy with a lot of field trips, helping with prairie burns and planning summer programs. Staff is also currently looking to hire summer interns. The solar turtle has been installed in the West Wing. The wildflowers are blooming & staff will be leading wildflower hikes.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Mike Hendrickson

The replacement of the entryway glass, doors & installation of automatic openers at the Administration office building is complete. Staff is currently working on the railing replacement on the Rotary Reserve deck. Mike had a request to resume having the Board meetings in-person; he would like feedback from the Board on how they would like to proceed. Staff is working with US Fish & Wildlife Service to partner on a federal program to establish more acres of pollinator. A written report was submitted.

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

Adjourned 6:13 PM.

OFFICE MANAGER

DATE