

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Boone County Courthouse, 4th floor conference room

Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Pat Hagan, Lisa Kobernusz (via phone)

Members absent: Gary Nystrom, Brian Bales

Employees present: Ex. Dir. Chelsie Wilson

Vice Chair Hagan officially called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Schieltz made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kobernusz. Motion passed.

Kobernusz motioned to approve the minutes of the two previous meetings. Seconded by Schieltz. Approved.

The board opened the floor for any public comments. There were none.

Executive director Wilson presented the monthly bills totaling \$24,635.02. Bills this month included interior furniture for the new clubhouse, removal of hazard trees overhanging the cabins at Don Williams, and install of equipment for the new ranger truck. There was also a payment of \$34,266.50 to Burkett Construction for the new clubhouse. Kobernusz made a motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Schieltz. Passed.

The board then heard a presentation by two employees from Foth Engineering consultants about environmental credits and mitigation banking related to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Mitigation banks are natural resource areas that have been restored and set aside in perpetuity. If a company, municipality, etc. impacts a stream or wetland they may be required to purchase mitigation credits to compensate for this impact. Foth provided an overview of how we could create a mitigation bank by restoring the stream that runs through Buffalo Grove and later receive payments for these "credits". This would require upfront costs for the permitting and construction before we could recoup these costs and then earn income from selling these credits with a timeline of perhaps 7-8 years until the project is complete and all the credits are sold.

Old Business

Don Williams new clubhouse update: Ex. Dir. Wilson shared that Phil and Betsy Clayton were selected as the new clubhouse concessionaires for 2026. They own and operate the bowling alley in Grand Junction (which is closed in the summer). Construction updates: The first layer of paint is on the walls inside the building, the HVAC is installed, and the building has electricity. They will start on the floors tomorrow. After floors are finished, cabinets and other interior finishing will begin.

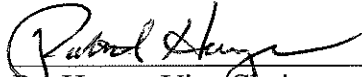
New Business:

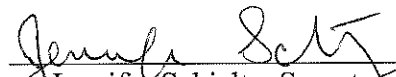
Two special event permit requests were received for use of the High Trestle Trail. The Pigtales bike ride is an annual bike ride from Ankeny to Woodward, scheduled for May 16. The Boone County hospital 5K/10K duathlon will be on June 20. Schieltz made a motion to approve both permits, seconded by Kobernusz. Approved.

Other Discussion:

A date for an opening ceremony for the new clubhouse is still to be determined based on when construction is complete, but likely sometime in May.

Schieltz moved to adjourn, Kobernusz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.



Pat Hagan, Vice Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Chelsie reach out to other county conservation boards who have done mitigation banking to get more info and hear about their experiences
- Chelsie continue to monitor clubhouse construction progress
- As construction nears completion, choose a date for an opening ceremony
- Think about working on a new Strategic Plan this upcoming year