

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Boone County Courthouse, 4th floor conference room

Members present: Gary Nystrom, Brian Bales, Jennifer Schieltz, Pat Hagan, Lisa Kobernusz

Members absent:

Employees present: Ex. Dir. Chelsie Wilson

Chair Nystrom officially called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Hagan made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Bales. Motion passed.

Bales motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Kobernusz. Approved.

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

Executive director Wilson presented the monthly bills totaling \$58,843.54. Bills this month included purchase of the security system for the new clubhouse, catering for the volunteer appreciation dinner, a ½ page ad in Iowa Sportsman magazine, coco filter for the new septic system at the clubhouse, bridge repair on the golf course, rewiring underground electric to the old clubhouse, repair of bathhouse B water pressure issues, and south boat dock replacement. There is no payment to Burkett Construction this month for the new clubhouse construction; we are holding off on the final payment until the building is completely done. Bales motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Hagan. Passed.

Old Business

Don Williams new clubhouse update: Ex. Dir. Wilson shared that 31 people attend the grand opening of the new clubhouse yesterday, including two of the county supervisors. Tours of the golf course were given. The contractor is still going through the punch list to finish items that are not yet complete and we hope to have another inspection before the final payment is made.

High Trestle Trail bridge insurance options: The county is insured under ICAP, but Ex. Dir. Wilson discovered that the bridge itself has essentially no coverage if it is damaged or destroyed from something like a collapse. The board brought this issue to the county supervisors to let them decide if they want to purchase additional coverage. They decided not to, due to the cost and low probability of such an event.

The water line to the Lodge by the Lake keeps breaking over and over again. Ex. Dir. Wilson would like to propose that we replace the whole line from the shutoff all the way down to the lodge. The board asked Ex. Dir. Wilson to get several quotes on this before the next meeting. A temporary fix will be made in the meantime.

New Business:

Don Williams water line leak: we are losing around 100 gallons per minute from a leak in the four-inch main water line somewhere in the 6 mile stretch between Ogden and the entrance to

Don Williams. We are trying to find the location of the leak, but not having success yet. Ex. Dir. Wilson said we are hoping to put a shutoff in partway up the line to use that to help figure out which part of the line is leaking.

Our Swede Point park ranger Chris Call has submitted his resignation effective June 5 because he has taken a new job in Minnesota closer to home. He is leaving before completing four years of employment with us, so his contract stipulates that he must pay back a percentage of the cost we paid for his law enforcement training at the academy. We hope to post a position description very soon to begin taking applications to replace him.

Ex. Dir. Wilson shared that we hired a new naturalist, Alaina Allen. She will be moving down from Minnesota and starting in mid-June.

A special event permit request was received for the Fitness Sports 9K run/walk along the High Trestle Trail to take place on August 29. Schieltz made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Kobernusz. Approved.

A special event permit request for the High Trestle Trail was received from the Hawkeye 200 Ultramarathon to take place next year on June 6, 2027. It is too far away for us to approve this now, but the organizers wanted to ask now during their planning stage if we foresee any issues. The board does not foresee any problems with approving this next year.

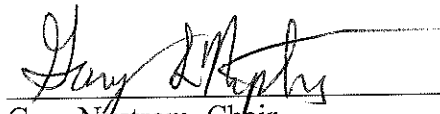
Other Discussion:

The board discussed the upcoming RAGBRAI bike ride, as Boone is an overnight stop this year. We will set up a booth along the route, but don't anticipate it impacting our parks much.

We have heard that part of Ledges State Park campground will be closed for about two weeks this summer. Ex. Dir. Wilson is meeting with Ledges director Andy Bartlett soon and will ask about this to see if it might affect use of our campgrounds.

The board shared positive feedback received about the new clubhouse. There was also some discussion about a wet spot between holes 4 and 6 of the golf course that could possibly be addressed with tile or digging a small pond, as a future project.

Schieltz moved to adjourn, Kobernusz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.



Gary Nystrom, Chair



Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Chelsie work with county HR to post Swede Point ranger position
- Chelsie continue to monitor clubhouse construction
- Get quotes for replacing water line to Lodge by the Lake
- Install shut off to main water line to try to locate leak in the 6-mile stretch