

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Boone County Courthouse, 4th floor conference room

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

Employees present: Ex. Dir. Chelsie Wilson, Ranger Blake Barrett, Naturalist Alaina Allen

Chair Nystrom officially called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Hagan motioned to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Seconded by Kobernusz. Approved.
Hagan motioned to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Seconded by Bales. Approved.

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

Executive director Wilson presented the monthly bills totaling \$35,972.66. Bills this month included a new sprayer, "Master Woodlands" training for Alaina, fire extinguisher servicing, our quarterly pesticide order, and the yearly payment for our golf cart leases. There are two more years on that five-year lease. More water hydrants were also put in to fix some of the leaks we've been having. 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. Schieltz motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Kobernusz. Passed.

Old Business

Don Williams new clubhouse update: Ex. Dir. Wilson shared that a few weeks ago she and Gary met with the foreman and put together another punch list of items that need to be finished. As of today, the foreman said that they have accomplished almost none of this list and won't be back to our building for a while because they are busy with other projects. The situation has become unacceptable and frustrating. Therefore, we are planning on getting our county attorney involved to try to remedy this.

New Business:

New Swede Point Park Ranger Blake Barrett took the Peace Office Oath in front of the board.

Park Ranger patrol vehicle discussion: previously all of our park rangers have lived on site at either Don Williams or Swede Point. However, Blake will not be living in the Swede Point house, so Ex. Dir. Wilson is recommending that while he is on duty hours in the future, Blake be allowed to take the patrol vehicle to his home in northern Boone county in case he needs to respond to an incident while on call. The board is in favor of this. Ex. Dir. Wilson will put together a standard operating procedure (SOP) document and bring it to a future meeting for approval.

Golf outing review: We had a tournament request from the Friends of Don Williams Golf course for a memorial event on August 29, 2026, from 9am to 2pm. They are estimating about 70 golfers. Schieltz motioned to approve the tournament request, seconded by Bales. Approved.

Other Discussion: Ex. Dir. Wilson shares that our naturalist Alaina has an interest in living in the Swede Point park house, since the new ranger is not. She would pay the same amount of rent per month as the previous ranger and there would be a memorandum of understanding signed that she is responsible for certain duties taking care of the house and grounds. The board is supportive of this.

Lisa asked about the law enforcement agreement with the sheriff's office that we discussed last month. Ex. Dir. Wilson said the county attorney is still working on this, so we do not have an updated version to approve yet.

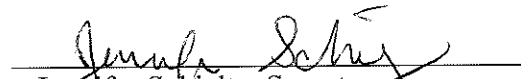
Brain shared that he visited the Don Williams campground last week and noted that everything was in great shape and everyone loved the clubhouse pizza. So he gave kudos to everyone.

Pat asked about the \$90,000 grant we received through the forest resiliency program to get rid of invasive species at Buffalo Grove. Ex. Dir. Wilson says she is putting together a bidding package this fall and then it will go out for bid for someone to do the project.

Gary asked Chelsie to share some overall thoughts on how the golf course is doing. She says that overall it has been a very good season. Patrons seem very happy to have a new clubhouse. The additional parking has been great. Having a full-time person doing mowing and other course maintenance has been very helpful and important. The clubhouse concessionaires have been great to work with.

Hagan moved to adjourn, Kobernusz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.



Gary Nystrom, Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Chelsie and Gary talk to county attorney about legal options for dealing with the delay and uncompleted work on the new Don Williams clubhouse
- Chelsie write and SOP for patrol ranger vehicle for Blake
- Chelsie write an MOU for Alaina to live in the Swede Point house. Get house ready before she moves in.
- Let board members know if you need help with anything before our next meeting