

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
Swede Point Park shelter

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

Members absent: Pat Hagan

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

Chair Nystrom officially called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Schieltz made a motion to amend the agenda to remove "approval of minutes of June meeting" (these were already approved last month) and to add "quarterly naturalist update". Seconded by Bales. The amended agenda was approved.

Kobernusz motioned to approve the minutes of the previous 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 \$25,589.05. Bills this month included chairs for the patio at the new clubhouse, irrigation supplies and a hole cutter for the golf course, uniform items for our rangers, new ATV tires, broken window replacement at the Ronald Goode shelter, new batteries for a boat and a truck, mower parts, and skid steer overhaul. Bales motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Kobernusz. Passed.

Old Business

Don Williams new clubhouse update: Ex. Dir. Wilson shared that she has let our county attorney know about the issues we are having with the contractor. The gutters were finally finished, but none of the indoor issues (including a leaking sink, back door mis-fitting, and unfinished painting) have been fixed by the contractor. Bales made a motion that we hire someone, for the purpose of safety and security, to fix the back door and then deduct this amount from the balance of the contract due to the contractor. We are still holding back final payment until everything is completed. Ex. Dir. Wilson plans to submit a letter of no confidence about Burkett Construction to the county in response to these issues.

Law enforcement agreement with Sherriff's department: the minor changes we requested were made to the version we reviewed two months ago. This agreement means that our rangers fall under the umbrella of the sheriff's office for law enforcement purposes. Schieltz made a motion to approve the agreement. Seconded by Bales. Approved.

New Business:

Ex. Dir. Wilson presented a Park Ranger patrol vehicle standard operating procedure (SOP) document that she drafted, modeled after Story County's version. Bales made a motion, seconded by Schieltz to approve this SOP as written. Approved.

Golf course identification sign project budget: Ex. Dir. Wilson has looked into pricing for a new, more modern sign for the golf course to be placed by the road. There are different options that could include lighting, digital display, stone base, etc. The more basic options are around \$5000. Fancier ones with a digital display would be \$12,000-\$15,000 and would require us to run electricity to it. The board discussed and asked Ex. Dir. Wilson to bring some quotes for both the high and low end options to the next meeting.

Upcoming events: two events are happening soon, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) and Hawk Watch. NPLD will be at Swede Point park on September 26. Oak trees will be planted. Hawk Watch will be October 10 at the High Trestle Trail bridge overlook.

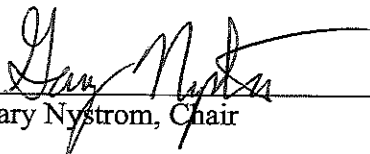
Quarterly Naturalist update: naturalist Alaina Allen shared info on all of the programming she has done since beginning her position this summer. These include girls youth group canoe and hiking, monarch tagging, outreach at the Boone County fair and Eastern Star Masonic home, and teacher in-service with United Community school. She also joined the 2026-27 Emerging Leaders program through the Soil and Water Conservation Society. She is taking Master Woodland courses and has handled lots of phone calls a day to the conservation office.

Other Discussion: Board members will conduct a walkthrough of the Swede Point residence after adjournment to see the recent repairs and cleaning.

Ex. Dir. Wilson shared that the Boone County Conservation Foundation met today and approved funds for several new projects: funds for the new dock at Don Williams, purchasing oak trees to plant, money to support a summer externship for an Iowa STEM teacher to join us next summer, an update to the Swede Point birding blind, and materials for construction of a new bridge along the Swede point trail.

Bales asked if we have any concerns or a position regarding potential data center constructions, as this has been a topic of conversation in the county lately.

Schieltz moved to adjourn, Kobernusz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.



Gary Nystrom, Chair



Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Chelsie hire someone to fix back door of new clubhouse for safety
- Chelsie and Gary follow up with county attorney about legal options for dealing with the delay and uncompleted work on the new Don Williams clubhouse
- Chelsie get several quotes for new golf course sign
- Let board members know if you need help with anything before our next meeting