

1. Call to Order

Julie Solinski called the regular meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation Board to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Des Moines County Conservation Administration Building.

Those Members Present: Julie Solinski, Ron Helling Dan Hockett and Kathy Wunderlich.

Those Members Absent: Terry Davis

Others Present: Director Lee, Administrative Assistant Breuer, BoS Shane McCampbell, NRCS Big Hollow watershed coordinator Tom Brockett and two members of the public.

2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:

- a. Move items 7c and 7d up.

3. Delegations/Public Input:

- a. 7d - Consider a request from Mississippi Flyway Retriever Club to host field trials at Big Hollow, potentially in the Fall of 2026. The board had no objection to the Director authorizing the retriever club to host a field trial assuming it can be done without unduly disrupting the existing park activities.
- b. 7c - Consider using the Kevin J. Gahn Recreation Area as a controlled hunt area. The board authorized using the Gahn Recreation Area as a controlled hunting/fishing area as part of the department's new outdoor mentor program.

4. Consent Agenda: Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2025 and January claims:

- #9 a. Motion by Ron Helling, seconded by Kathy Wunderlich to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

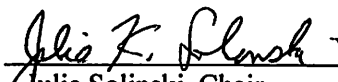
5. Committee Reports:

- a. **Foundation:** Held a meeting today and appointed a new Chair, John Mercer. Discussed and approved becoming the fiscal agent for the upcoming River Days event that is coming to downtown Burlington.
- b. **Observatory:** Judy emailed to inform us they will be hosting a member only late night viewing party for the upcoming lunar eclipse. Jeff passed on the Internet information to them.
- c. **Legislative:** There are more anti-conservation bills coming, but SJR 6 has been pulled from committee and is dead for the year. There are still companion bills to fund the trust in play
- d. **Water Quality:** This quarter's newsletter from the NRCS has been posted. Tom will be hosting a conservation workshop on March 28 with guest speaker Richard Lyons and a panel of local farmers. There is talk of office consolidation within the NRCS. The Wapello office has already lost three members because of DOGE. The current farm bill runs out on the 14th.

6. Project Updates:

Alliant has proposed an endowment of \$45,000 for the bat mitigation property. Chris checked with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and they said that seems reasonable. Chris will have the endowment agreement reviewed by the county attorneys office and then present it to Partners. Chris and Tanner Gebhardt will walk the property once it warms up to establish a baseline for reporting. River Days planning is in full swing. It will be held on the riverfront beginning June 12 and be river oriented. Hook and Hunt University will hold a kick-off at The Drake on March 20. They will hold an event at the shooting range on March 29 from 4-5p.m. The I *heart* County Parks banquet is set for April 3. Tickets are on sale now. The Cores position is running out of money, but has good momentum. There will be an action item on the April agenda regarding this position.

7. **New Business:**
- #10 a. **Approve Big Hollow Shooting Range Closure for Hunter's Ed:**
Motion by Dan Hockett seconded by Ron Helling to approve the closure.
Motion passed unanimously by those members present.
- #11 b. **Approve Big Hollow Shooting Range Closure for Top Gun:**
Motion by Dan Hockett seconded by Ron Helling to approve the closure.
Motion passed unanimously by those members present.
8. **Informational Items/Correspondence:**
- a. **None.**
10. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.**
Next meeting will be held at Starr's Cave Nature Center at 11627 Starr's Cave Rd. in Burlington, IA.
Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 2, 2025.
The public is welcome.



Julie Solinski, Chair



Dan Hockett, Secretary/Treasurer