

**BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting January 7, 2026**  
**Conservation Board Office**  
**1104 South Main Street Tripoli, IA 50676**

**Members Present:** Patty Spowart, Chair; Mandie Sanderman, Vice Chair, Stacey Snyder, Kevin Korman, and Scott Whitcome

**Members Absent:** none

**Also Present:** Andrew Hockenson, Director; Barb Meeker, HR Director; Bob Brunkhorts, Board of Supervisors; Tim Meeker

Meeting called to order at 7:01PM by Vice Chair Sanderman.

Spowart moved to accept the minutes from the December 3, 2025 regular meeting. Seconded by Korman and approved unanimously.

**Misc. Correspondence and Announcements:** The Bremer County Board of Supervisors has appointed Scott Whitcome from Waverly to serve as the newest conservation board member, replacing Larry Pavelec. All present introduced themselves and welcomed Scott to the Board.

**Election of 2026 Officers/BCNA Representative:** After discussion, Snyder made a motion to nominate Spowart as Chair. The motion was seconded by Korman. With no other nominations, Spowart was unanimously voted as chair. The office of Vice Chair was then discussed, with Snyder making a motion to appoint Sanderman for the position. Whitcome seconded the motion. With no other motions, Sanderman was unanimously voted as Vice-Chair. Spowart and Sanderman both accepted their nominations and will serve in their respective roles for 2026. Spowart presided over the remainder of the meeting. The Bremer County Nature Alliance representative was next discussed. Sanderman moved to nominate Snyder for the BCNA Representative. Korman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Area Reports and Updates:**

- **Parks:** The Young Foundation has obligated \$12,000 toward the cabin project at Cedar Bend. Spowart presented updated cabin drawings and images for review.

Hockenson discussed 2026 park user fees and compared them to rates from surrounding counties with similar amenities. Snyder moved and Sanderman seconded retaining 2025 user fees at the current level, with the exception of increasing Eagle Lodge rental from \$75/day to \$100/day. All approved. The 2026 user fees will be as follows: Cedar Bend camping \$15/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, \$22/night gravel pads, \$410 (grass) and \$485 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; Alcock and North Cedar camping

\$15/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, and \$410 per 30 consecutive nights; North Woods camping \$15/night non-electric, \$20/night electric, \$25/night gravel sites, \$410 (grass) and \$485 (gravel) per 30 consecutive nights; dumpstations \$5 for non-registered campers; showers \$2 for non-registered campers; firewood \$6 per specified amount; shelters \$25/day; and Eagle Lodge \$100/day.

- **Wildlife Areas:** Staff members have been cutting dead trees in the parks, have constructed a small open shelter on the east side of Alcock Park, and put metal on the gable ends of the south open shelter at North Woods. They will be shifting to utilizing the brush mulching attachment and cutting trees in the wildlife areas.

**2026 Project Goals:** Members reviewed a spreadsheet of the projects identified in the current Bremer County Conservation Board Plan. After further discussion, Sanderman made a motion to set 2026 project goals of completing the cabin at Cedar Bend Park, upgrading campsites and electrical at North Cedar Park, look into possible locations for a pickleball court, and continuing work within the A.F. Miller State Preserve. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously.

**FY26/27 Budget:** Slight increases have been proposed in road rock, natural & LP gas, and well water testing line items. All other line items in departments 22,13,19,81, and 96 will remain the same or similar to the previous year. Wages were initially set at 7.5% with associated wage related increases based off that value. Percentage increase was based off numbers from the compensation analysis conducted in 2025 by Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development, as well as state averages. Korman made a motion to submit the budget as proposed pending further Board of Supervisors guidance on wage and health insurance figures. The motion was seconded by Snyder and approved unanimously. Capital expenses were next discussed, which included a request of \$48,000 for a 3/4 ton extended cab pickup to replace the 2001 pickup.

**Naturalist Report:** The combined Naturalist report was reviewed. The report contained recent programs and participant numbers. Yearly program and participant figures were also included. Liz hosted a wreath making class, and is working on a new bat program. Angie and Liz made wood burned ornaments with Tripoli Nursing Home and North Star. There was a motion by Snyder to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Sanderman. All approved

**Open Discussion:** Stacey and Liz will be doing a hike at North Woods Park. Snyder also suggested removing the railroad ties at the Cedar Bend Amphitheater due to the condition they are in.

**Bills/Purchases:** Motion by Snyder to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Sanderman and approved unanimously.

Next meeting 7:00 PM February 4, 2026 at the Conservation Board Office in Tripoli.

With no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:54PM by Chairman Spowart.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Hockenson  
Director

Approved: Patty Spowart, Chairman

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