

Meeting Minutes January 7th, 2026

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Chair Wacha

Board Members Present:

Wacha, Kenkel, Behrens, Filloon

Staff Present:

Behrens, Tague

Public Comment: None

Information Items:

Maintenance Report:

Director Behrens provided the maintenance report for the month of December.

Naturalist Report:

Director Behrens provided the Naturalist report for education and outreach for the month of December.

Ranger Report:

Director Behrens provided the Ranger/Tech report for the month of December while Owen is attending Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

Director Report:

Director Behrens provided his report for the month of December.

Action Items:

Ike's Training Date and Membership Rates:

The group discussed possible dates and times for the Ike's Shooting Range Refresher course offered every two years and discussed adjusting rates. The group encouraged the Director to set a date similar to previous years and not on a weekend. Director to set a date/time at later time. Motion by Wacha to Increase Ike's Two Year Membership from \$50 to \$80 for the years of 2026 and 2027, Seconded by Behrens, All voting in Favor. Motion Approved.

Car Policy:

The group discussed establishing a policy for on-call Conservation staff, specifically the Ranger and Director.

Motion by Kenkel to allow Ranger and Director to utilize county vehicle to commute between work and their respective residence, providing fuel and maintenance, so long as said staff reside within Tama County limits, or within a 10mile offset outside the county in all directions from the Tama County line. Seconded by Behrens. All voting Aye. Motion Approved.

Animal Policy:

The group discussed current park and building animal policies. A request was made to table the discussion and any action, asking the Director to further research insurance and liability requirements.

Discussion:

New Conservation Board Member and Terms

Director Behrens introduced new Conservation Board member, Hunter Filloon. Filloon gave a brief introduction. The group reviewed new term limits set by the Board of Supervisors at their January 2nd, 2026 meeting.

Cabin Research

Director Behrens presented findings on potential cabin options, including tours of existing cabins within other County Conservation areas to the Conservation Board and reviewed potential cabin location areas within Otter Creek Park. Director Behrens stated he will continue to collect cost and timeline data on potential future cabins.

Nature Center upstairs improvements

Director Behrens presented concepts for new window treatments, front lobby updates, and tv/soundbar installation within the Nature Center as well as shared new animal and modular displays within the library.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Kenkel to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Behrens. All voting aye. Claims and Meeting Minutes for December are Approved.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Behrens. Seconded by Wacha. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.