

APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE- SPECIAL MEETING Wednesday, August 14, 2018 at 6:00 PM Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area Beach Picnic Shelter 2025 County Highway BH Highland, WI 53543

Iowa County Wisconsin

Meeting was called to order by vice-chair Dan Nankee at 6:04 PM.

Roll Call. Members present: Rod Anding, Ron Benish, Kevin Butteris, Dave Gollon, Don Leix, and Dan Nankee. Members absent: Kallen Maxwell, Thomas McGraw

Others present: Katie Abbott, Larry Bierke, Bob Bunker, Blackhawk Lake Commission members

Approve the agenda for this August 14, 2019 meeting: Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the August 14, 2019 agenda. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken. Sup. Nankee expressed appreciation for this join meeting with the Blackhawk Lake Commission.

Cobb-Highland Blackhawk Lake (BHL) Commission business- no action will be taken by the LCC: The Commission reviewed their minutes and the treasurer's report.

Introductions of Committee and Commission members: Each member introduced themselves and participated in an icebreaker activity.

Cobb-Highland Blackhawk Lake Commission Annual Report: Park Manager Dan Welsh presented the report. He discussed the annual audit, new purchases made, and finances. They will work on the 2020 plan in the fall, which will likely include electrical site upgrades and repairs to shower houses and roofs.

Discussion of BHL Recreation Area management and permit challenges: The group discussed challenges, which have included obtaining permission from DNR to cut dead trees, permits to cut firewood, and a permit to build a new cabin, often related to frequent DNR staff changes. Discussion of repercussions and what could be done.

Discussion BHL dams maintenance: The group discussed: the need for a long-term solution; impacts if the DNR would take ownership of the dams; needing a pot of money to match FEMA funding if a dam ever failed; the need to protect communities from flooding; concerns about a joint fund for dam repair. The group agreed to start with a discussion with DNR, then revisit the joint fund idea later if needed.

Discussion of goals and updating the BHL Operations Agreement: The 2015 agreement was signed by both parties but never approved by the County Board. The BHL Commission had approved it as is and was not comfortable adding any language regarding the dams. Sup. Benish moved to forward the agreement as is to the County Board. Sup. Leix seconded. Motion carried.

Determine strategy for moving forward: The group agreed to start by meeting with Mark Aquino from DNR to discuss dams and permit issues at BHL. This will be attended by 2-3 members each from the LCC and the BHL Commission, by Larry Bierke, and possibly by state representatives.

Motion to adjourn. Sup. Leix made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Benish seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Following the meeting a quorum was present during a potluck with the Blackhawk Lake Commission. No business was transacted.