

**REGULAR MEETING TENTATIVE AGENDA  
DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
Wednesday, April 06, 2022**

1. Call to order at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. - Admin Office - 13700 Washington Road
2. Additions/deletions to agenda
3. Delegations/Public input
4. Approval of minutes - March 02, 2022
5. Approval of claims - March 2022
6. Committee Reports
  - a. Shooting Range Advisory
  - b. Observatory
  - c. Legislative
  - d. Water Quality
7. Project Updates
8. Old Business
  - a. Budget and Finances
    - i. Approval of Cost Saving Measures and Revenue Generation
  - b. Approval of Letter to Board of Supervisors
9. New Business
  - a. Top Gun Range Closure Request
10. Informational items/correspondence
  - a. Field Tours
  - b. Award Presentation - SEIRPC
  - c. ISAC Conference Report
11. Adjournment



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## MEMO

**To:** Conservation Board  
**From:** Chris Lee, Executive Director  
**Date:** March 31, 2022  
**Re:** Background info for April 6, 2022 Board Meeting

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Here is some background information regarding the items on the April Board Meeting agenda:

### **Project Updates**

- The boat ramp project at Big Hollow started just in time for it to rain (and snow) almost every day. As of this writing, the grade work is all done and there is a very noticeable difference in the slope. About 15% of the concrete had been poured.
- Ryan will graduate from ILEA this month. His graduation ceremony is April 21 in Des Moines. Several of us plan to attend. It will be good to get him back as we've been short staffed with him being gone and Pat being at limited capacity due to shoulder surgery.
- Most of the parks are being opened. We've had a couple campers at Big Hollow and reservations have been steadily pouring in. Our camp hosts have moved in at Big Hollow and our new host will be moving in at Welter soon. We've been unable to secure a camp host for the 4<sup>th</sup> Pumping Station.
- The nesting owl at Starr's Cave is quite the celebrity, having made the 6:00 news recently. We closed the bridge to keep people from disturbing it.
- We've hired Jackie Goodman as our Americorps naturalist and still have a summer naturalist position available through that program.

### **Old Business**

Budget & Finance – This will be a continuation of the discussion from our work session the previous week.

### **New Business**

Top Gun Range Closure Request – This is the annual request we get for the Top Gun event hosted by local law enforcement.

*Des Moines County Conservation is dedicated to the sustainability of natural resources through land stewardship, conservation education, and by providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities.*

**Informational Items**

- Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission will attend the meeting to present us an award we/they received for the Greater Burlington Bike and Pedestrian Plan.
- We need to schedule our annual spring field tour(s).
- ISAC Conference Report

-end-

**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:** James Garnjobst, Julie Solinski, Matthew Haas and Bob Hansen

**Those Members Absent:** Cathy Ziglar

**Others Present:** Director Lee, Administrative Assistant Breuer, EE Coordinator Rundell.

**2. Additions and Deletions to Agenda:**

- a. None

**3. Delegations/Public Input:**

- a. None

**4. Approval of Minutes for February 02, 2022:**

- #12 a. Motion by Matthew Haas, seconded by James Garnjobst to approve the minutes of the February 02, 2022, Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

**5. Approval of Claims for February 2022:**

- #13 a. Motion by James Garnjobst, seconded by Matt Haas to approve the claims for February 2022. Motion passed unanimously by those members present.

**6. Acceptance of Donations:**

- a. Rockzann & Steve Marshal - White Tail fawn mount for SCNC.
- b. Claus & Eleonore Benninghoven - \$500 for Witte Roof Fund.
- c. Terry A. Arellano - \$250 for Witte Roof Fund.
- d. Coral Reef - Free crickets for one year as animal food for SCNC.
- e. City of Burlington Renewable Energy Committee - \$3500 for new SCNC exhibit.
- f. Michelle Schnicker - \$100 for Randall Lowthorp Memorial.

**7. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Shooting Range:** No Report.
- b. **Observatory:** They need to repair a motor on one of the scopes. Meetings start in March at the library.
- c. **Legislative:** Tax reform package is done. No sales tax increase or IWILL yet. The conservation land purchase bill is still in play. A bill is working through that all County Conservation boards will have to publish their holding online.
- d. **Water Quality:** Per an email from the DNR, they have concluded their review of the 9 point plan. It has been sent to the EPA to review and we should have comments back in April.

**8. Project Updates:**

Chris had a report from Ryan at ILEA. The Youth Jamboree is June 4 from 9am - 2pm. We have lots of volunteer turning out to help the event. Grant season has started. The Wellmark grant has been submitted and the LWCF grant will be going out soon.

9. **Old Business:**
- a. **Budget**  
A discussion about the FY22/23 budget was held.
10. **New Business:**
- #14 a. **Approval of Resolution to Apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant:**  
Motion by Matthew Haas, seconded by Bob Hansen to approve the Resolution.  
Motion passed unanimously by those board members present.
- b. **Discussion of Big Hollow lake access and allowing off-road vehicles on the ice:**  
Despite public outcry on social media to allow it, no members of the public attended the meeting.  
The board decided to leave the rule as-is.
11. **Informational Items/Correspondence:**
- a. **Award Presentaion - SEIRP.**
12. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.**  
Next meeting will be held at the Des Moines County Administration Office at 13700 Washington Road in West Burlington, IA. Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 6, 2022.  
The public is welcome.

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Julie Solinski, Chair

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Cathy Ziglar, Secretary/Treasurer

## March Claims

Vendor	Description	Park/Area	Amount
Alliant Energy	Water's Park light	Electric Use	\$12.56
Alliant Energy	Water's Park light	Electric Use	\$12.66
Des Moines County News	Minute publication	OFC PUBLICATIONS & LEGAL NOTCS	\$14.69
Alliant Energy	Augusta Mills light	Electric Use	\$17.42
Alliant Energy	Admin garage electric	Electric Use	\$18.72
Adobe	InDesign subscription for SCNC	Dues & Memberships	\$20.99
Huffman's	Fuel barbs for splitter	Equipment Repair / Maint	\$25.98
Brownells	Glock clip release	Law Enforcement Supplies	\$28.25
Chris Lee	ISAC meal / parking reimbursement	School of Instruction	\$29.04
Access Systems	Copier contract	Data Processing	\$34.45
ICCS	CCDA annual dues	Dues & Memberships	\$40.00
Sinclair	Oil filter cap, grease zerks	Equipment Repair / Maint	\$44.57
Huffman's	Bar oil, mixed gas oil	Lubricants	\$50.97
Huffman's	Service kits for pole saw, trimmers	Equipment Repair / Maint	\$57.98
MTC	BH WiFi	Parks - All Other	\$60.00
Rathbun	Shop / Admin water	Water Use	\$64.00
Lowe's	Items for BH beach project	Parks - All Other	\$65.25
Andersons, Georges	Oil for oil changes, fire unit	Lubricants	\$70.95
Westland Fastbreak	Small engine fuel	Fuels	\$71.04
Access Energy	Southern park electric	Electric Use	\$71.20
Coral Reef	Animal bedding & food	EE Program Supplies	\$71.26
LaVeine Sanitation	Park trash service	Parks - All Other	\$75.00
Verizon	Ranger aircards	Data Processing	\$76.02
CFS Flowers	Plant for Imler's funeral	Conservation Board	\$87.94
Caseys, HW 34 truck stop	Fuel for escape	Fuels	\$88.77
Century Link	SCNC Internet	Data Processing	\$94.99
MTC	Shop phone / Internet	Data Processing	\$95.73
Danville Schools	Bus scholarship	EE Program Supplies	\$96.05
Adobe, Venngage	Software subs	Dues & Memberships	\$101.98
Great Western Supply	Custodial supplies for SCNC	Parks - Custodial	\$113.27
Alliant Energy	Admin electric	Electric Use	\$137.73
Danville Telco	Admin phone / Internet, SCNC phone	Telecommunications	\$143.56
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Big Hollow Electric	Electric Use	\$197.85
Advance Auto	New batteries for F550	MV Repair / Maint.	\$206.34
The Hawk Eye	Paper subscription for NC	Magazines, Periodicals & Book	\$223.60
Alliant Energy	Admin gas	Natural Gas & LP	\$224.86
Iowa Division of Labor	Elevator permit	Building Repairs / Maint.	\$225.00
Andersons	Oil change for patrol truck, F250	MV Repair / Maint.	\$227.18

Iowa Prison Industries	ILEA winter package	Law Enforcement Supplies	\$230.00
Altorfer	Stump grinder rental	Parks - All Other	\$278.00
Casey's	Fuel for academy trips	Fuels	\$301.50
Jack Shrader	Camp fee refund, medical emergency	Parks - All Other	\$350.00
US Cellular	Staff cell phones	Telecommunications	\$391.30
B&B Propane	House LP delivery	Natural Gas & LP	\$532.10
Roberts Tire	New tires for Escape	MV Repair / Maint.	\$592.34
Eastern Iowa Light & Power	Northern park electric	Electric Use	\$638.43
Advance Auto, Georges	New batteries for JD4510, Fire unit repair	Equipment Repair / Maint	\$698.96
Reif Oil	Diesel delivery for shop	Fuels	\$832.20
Reif Oil	Fuel delivery for shop	Fuels	\$1,835.95
Secondary Roads	Purchase of used dump truck	Parks - All Other	\$3,000.00
Traffics Safety Store, One Clarion	Algae booms, speed bump signs	Parks - All Other	\$6,883.34
			<b>\$19,861.97</b>

**Director Daily Log**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Tuesday, March 1, 2022	Supervisor meeting. Grant work.
Wednesday, March 2, 2022	Grant work. Board meeting.
Thursday, March 3, 2022	Staff meeting + meeting with Burlington parks staff. Grant work.
Friday, March 4, 2022	Grant & fundraising work. Went to Hunt Woods to assess needs for a forestry grant the DNR offered us, and to Sullivan Slough to check on road/rock conditions and see the waterfowl migration status. Then to Linder to check on need for burn or spray on the possible remnants.
Saturday, March 5, 2022	Weekend
Sunday, March 6, 2022	Weekend
Monday, March 7, 2022	Met with staff. Worked on LWCF grant. Other office work.
Tuesday, March 8, 2022	Supervisor meeting. Grant work. Prep for ISAC conference.
Wednesday, March 9, 2022	ISAC Conference, REAP meeting, County Day at the Capitol.
Thursday, March 10, 2022	ISAC Conference
Friday, March 11, 2022	ISAC Conference
Saturday, March 12, 2022	Finished LWCF grant. Mailed to Des Moines.
Sunday, March 13, 2022	Weekend
Monday, March 14, 2022	Met with staff. Field visits with LT to coordinate projects.
Tuesday, March 15, 2022	Off
Wednesday, March 16, 2022	Off
Thursday, March 17, 2022	Off
Friday, March 18, 2022	Off
Saturday, March 19, 2022	Weekend
Sunday, March 20, 2022	Weekend
Monday, March 21, 2022	Met with staff. Caught up on correspondence from being gone. Caught up reports. Checked on status of Waters Park and boat ramp project at Big Hollow. Ordered seed.
Tuesday, March 22, 2022	Supervisor meeting. Met with Cheryl to figure out how to do project accounting in county's financial system. Office work.
Wednesday, March 23, 2022	Senate subcommittee meeting on iWILL bill (on zoom). Met with Shane McCampbell, discussed budget. Marketing team meeting.
Thursday, March 24, 2022	Met with Kelly and guy from KWQC re: owl at SC. Office work.
Friday, March 25, 2022	Off
Saturday, March 26, 2022	Hunter Ed
Sunday, March 27, 2022	Weekend
Monday, March 28, 2022	Met with field team. Took Hunter Ed materials back to Louisa County. Looked at boat ramps. Office work.
Tuesday, March 29, 2022	Met with field team to discuss budget and revenue ideas. Supervisor meeting. Wrote revenue/fundraising document for work session.
Wednesday, March 30, 2022	Newsletter write ups. Board meeting memo. Other office work. Board work session.
Thursday, March 31, 2022	Finished newsletter write ups. Follow up from work session. CVB meeting.



### Outdoor Recreation Division Daily Log

Date	Activity
Tuesday, March 1, 2022	Tanner, Derek, & Avery, cut up hazardous tree at Starrs cave, tanner picked up supplies in town, worked on the chainsaws & trimmers, checked trash
Wednesday, March 2, 2022	Tanner, Derek & Avery, loaded up supplies, to Sycamore loop and cut firewood and brought back to shop
Thursday, March 3, 2022	Pat, Tanner, Derek, & Avery had staff meeting at office, then took tour of the Burlington Parks system, then Derek & Avery cleaned shooting range, Pat & Tanner to Courthouse to fill out paper work
Friday, March 4, 2022	Tanner and Avery picked up stump grinder at Altorfers, then grinded stumps at Waters Park, then Avery went to Starrs Cave, then went into town and picked up gas for small engines
Saturday, March 5, 2022	
Sunday, March 6, 2022	
Monday, March 7, 2022	Pat & Tanner had meeting with Chris, then Tanner unloaded seed for spring planting, then Pat & Tanner took stump grinder back to Altorfers
Tuesday, March 8, 2022	tanner sick, rest of the crew was off.
Wednesday, March 9, 2022	Pat went to C.C.P.O.A. in Benton County, Avery and Derek worked on the wood splitter, Tanner checked on van and blue bird box materials at SCNC, Picked up supplies for wood splitter in Burlington, Checked on 4th pump station and made list of things to do when opening park in the next week or so.
Thursday, March 10, 2022	Tanner & George to Starr's Cave and jumped van, then went on rounds, Derek & Avery did trail checks at Big Hollow
Friday, March 11, 2022	Derek cleared sidewalks, Pat put down salt, then Avery worked on routine shop maintenance, Tanner & Derek went and purchased a new battery for van, and installed, Pat did fire extinguisher checks, and took millage on all vehicles.
Saturday, March 12, 2022	
Sunday, March 13, 2022	
Monday, March 14, 2022	Pat & Derek took down 25 yard range, then installed new backing boards, L.T. helped with range and went with Chris to check linder property for upcoming projects. L.T. worked at the linder property, mowing, cutting, and stacking brush
Tuesday, March 15, 2022	crew cont. on opening Parks, replaced 50 yard range, started to put tables out in campground, picked up supplies in town, L.T worked at Linder
Wednesday, March 16, 2022	Pat & Tanner picked up supplies, rest of Crew cont. on Park opening at Big Hollow, Blue bird box checks with Jim Steer, and Tanner & Marcus did Blue bird box checks at Leopold rec. area. L.T. finished up at Linder property.
Thursday, March 17, 2022	Tanner & George went to Starr's cave to close bridge, then took Ranger to Muscatine for service, Derek & Avery split wood & cleaned up area around wood pile, then worked on routine shop maintenance.
Friday, March 18, 2022	Tanner & Avery took water pump to Georges for service, then picked up Ranger in Muscatine, Pat worked on directional signs for Big Hollow, then organized office, L.T. worked on seed drills
Saturday, March 19, 2022	
Sunday, March 20, 2022	
Monday, March 21, 2022	prepared equipment for prescribed burn, burned at linder property
Tuesday, March 22, 2022	Pat to Starr's cave and labeled breaker boxes, then started to take wood to cabin, Tanner & Derek went to little Welter and removed toilets and urinals.
Wednesday, March 23, 2022	Derek started to clean cabin, then took Tanner to pick up his truck, Tanner picked up hunter safety supplies in Louisa county, then to Starrs cave to set up program, Avery hooked up box grader, then started to blade roads, Pat installed new targets at shooting range
Thursday, March 24, 2022	Avery & Pat worked on Truck #2, Brakes, oil, filter, air filter, ect. Tanner & George to Starr's cave and went on rounds, Derek did rounds around Big Hollow.
Friday, March 25, 2022	Tanner & Pat took mower in for repair, then to Starr's cave to drop off paper work, picked up supplies in town, then dropped off picnic table legs to city of danville, then back to the shop and put away equipment.
Saturday, March 26, 2022	Tanner, Ryan, Marcus at Starr's cave for Hunter safety course
Sunday, March 27, 2022	

Monday, March 28, 2022	Pat & Derek opened North areas, then burned with crew at Linder & Luckenbill Woods, Tanner loaded up burn equipment, then burned.
Tuesday, March 29, 2022	Pat & Derek went to South areas and opened areas (put out tables, flags, firewood ect.), Tanner went to Luckenbill and cleared trails with Marcus, then met with Erwin Muff about his fence line,
Wednesday, March 30, 2022	Tanner, Avery & Derek cont. to Park opening at Big Hollow cabin, then to Starrs cave for building maintenance, then to office to pick up paper work.
Thursday, March 31, 2022	Pat, Tanner & George took truck into Deery Brothers for repair then picked up supplies in town & office, then back to the shop and worked on routine shop maintenance, Derek & Avery cont to open Big Hollow, cleaned up cabin, cleaned & organized shop area.
This month's goals & status	finish up winter maintenance
	continue TSI on timber around campground
	Prepare campgrounds for opening
Next month's goals	Prescribed Prairie Burns/Timber burns?
	Open Parks
	Instal new Shed in Electric campground and install roof

<b>Monthly Report: Environmental Education</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Work Performed</b>
Tuesday, March 01, 2022	Rundell: Earth Day work/jamboree work/pieces prep/pieces; Nack: Turtle program/ Program Prep/ Kiersten guidance/ Pieces Club
Wednesday, March 02, 2022	Rundell: Jambo work/library meeting/board meeting; Nack: Swept 2nd floor/Pieces/Homeschool planning/Call B-hive homeschool/Welcome visitors
Thursday, March 03, 2022	Nack: Staff Meeting/Tour of City parks and facilities/ Hike A Park Virginia Grove; Rundell: Staff meeting/hike a park/jambo work
Friday, March 04, 2022	Nack: Animal Care/Field trip correspondence/PSA's/Clean up from the week; Rundell: Americorps work/amicorps meeting/operation manual work
Saturday, March 05, 2022	
Sunday, March 06, 2022	
Monday, March 07, 2022	Rundell: Snow removal/amicorps work/scnc cleaning/setup for rental; Nack: Snow removal/Animal Care/Review grant/ Meeting with Chris/ Garbages
Tuesday, March 08, 2022	Rundell: rental prep/renewable energy meeting/jambo work/amicorps work/jambo meeting; Nack: Email schools about scheduling visits/Contact Danville about bussing/Career fair prep/Pieces
Wednesday, March 09, 2022	Rundell: jambo work/earth day meeting/earth day work/amicorps work; Nack: Created Program Flyer/Started Powerpoint for 5-8th grader career path program/Distribute a few flyers/Turkey call research
Thursday, March 10, 2022	Rundell: Historical society meeting with Kiersten and Julie/jambo work/earth day work; Nack: Repost Turkey call event/ Work on presentation for career fair/Animalcae
Friday, March 11, 2022	Rundell: Snow removal/amicorps work/bow research/jambo work/Volunteer orientation work/orientation and operation manual work; Nack: Animal Care/Cancelled field trip/ Met Brian Mum/ Prepped for monday's Career fair
Saturday, March 12, 2022	PIECES; Rundell: Meet with potential volunteer
Sunday, March 13, 2022	
Monday, March 14, 2022	Rundell: Half-ish day/amicorps work/volunteer binder work; Nack: Career Exploration day/ Animal Care
Tuesday, March 15, 2022	Nack: Backup activities for pieces tonight/ Pieces with lisa/ Work on turkey calls/Summer camp planning; Rundell: AmeriCorps onboarding work/pieces prep/pieces/see Kent!!/SCNC cleaning
Wednesday, March 16, 2022	Rundell: AmeriCorps I-9 work/printer battle/AmeriCorps work/burn SCNC pollinator gardens; Nack: Americorps intro/Helped Tanner with Blue Bird Boxes/Pieces Grimes
Thursday, March 17, 2022	Rundell: SCNC Cleaning/bridge problem solving/GBP pigeon problem research/earth day cleanup work; Nack: Hike A Park/ Animal Care/ Scheduling programs/ Program prep
Friday, March 18, 2022	Nack: Animal Care/Schedule New London Fieldtrip/ Clean up scnc/timesheet; Rundell: Jambo work/earth day cleanup work
Saturday, March 19, 2022	
Sunday, March 20, 2022	
Monday, March 21, 2022	Rundell: BH tour with Jacklyn and Brittany from BPL/burn/chris meeting; Nack: Animal Care/Met with Chris/half day
Tuesday, March 22, 2022	Nack: Water animals/Label the breakers with staff/ prepare for pieces; Rundell: breaker labeling fiasco/safety light headache/paint fake gun barrels/so many phone calls about the bridge closure...
Wednesday, March 23, 2022	Rundell: SCNC cleaning/fake gun painting/trip to visit IT/finally get Jacklyn set up on a computer/schedule talks/set up for hunter ed;
Thursday, March 24, 2022	Nack: Feed Snakes/Clean up program supplies/Prep radio interview sheet/Field trip scheduling; Rundell: finish painting fake guns/owl interview/catch up with chris/learning cycle training with Jacklyn/organic gardening club call and letter/
Friday, March 25, 2022	Rundell: Meet Bessine's/clean up from bessines/touch up painting/jambo work/volunteer binder work/sort recycling;
Saturday, March 26, 2022	Rundell: Volunteer meeting; Nack: Hunters Ed
Sunday, March 27, 2022	

Monday, March 28, 2022	Nack: Clean the building/Animal Care/ Assist in prescribed burn/Plan pieces; Rundell: Clean from hunter ed/call potential volunteers/burn/newsletter
Tuesday, March 29, 2022	Rundell: work on printer quote/tv kiosk update/jambo work/jambo meeting; Nack:Cleared trails at Luckenbill/WB Rec Class hike/ Animal Care/ Reviewed lesson planning with Americorps member/Pieces Club
Wednesday, March 30, 2022	Rundell: 2nd floor door/begin loft setup/jambo work/master conservation meeting/board work session; Nack: Insta post/Master Conservation tour/Pieces program/Send out PSA and program reminders
Thursday, March 31, 2022	Rundell: Meet with Vicki Philabaum/earth day meeting/earth day work/jambo work; Nack: Animal Care/Hike A Park Luckenbill woods/Homeschool fieldtrip planning
<b>This month's goals &amp; status</b>	<p>Rundell: Hired one AmeriCorps position/continue planning earth day cleanup and jambo/volunteers are trickling in</p> <p>Nack: Summer Camp Planning/Run a Turkey Calling Program/ More Insta posts I have outlined camp schedules with the proper dates and times/Although I pushed hard, we did not have enough RSVP's/Few insta posts.</p>
<b>Next month's goals</b>	<p>Rundell: Find more volunteers/get May volunteer schedule covered/summer camp signup/start camp prep</p> <p>Nack: Help Americorp person feel more comfortable in teaching/ Camp Planning/Finish out Hike A Park series strong</p>



**KEVIN GLENDENING, SHERIFF  
CHAD MCCUNE, CHIEF DEPUTY**

**512 N. Main Street, Suite 2  
Burlington, IA 52601  
Phone: 319-753-8212  
Fax: 319-754-6910**



Des-Moines County Conservation Board  
Burlington IA

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to tell you about an event being planned exclusively for local law enforcement. The Top Gun 2022 event is designed to allow Des-Moines County area law enforcement officers to have a fun and friendly shooting competition at Big Hollow Range. The competition will consist of both of handguns and shotguns to allow officers to demonstrate proficiency in both weapons. Last year's combat competition consisted of a 40-round handgun combat course with two birdshot shotgun rounds mixed in. The combat course was held on the 50-meter range, and a separate 2-stage efficiency shoot was held on the 25-meter range.

The 2022 competition will be a similar style shoot as last years. I am requesting that the Des-Moines County Conservation Board close both the 50-meter and the 25-meter range for this event. As a firearms instructor I feel that this is the only way to properly insure not only the safety of the officers during the Top Gun shoot but also the safety of the public.

Should you have any questions, or would like more information about this event; you may contact me using any of the contact information provided below. The date of the event is Thursday, May 12, 2022. Thank you for your time, consideration and ongoing community support.

Sincerely,

Dave Hama, Sergeant  
Des Moines County Sheriff's Office  
[hammad@dmcounty.com](mailto:hammad@dmcounty.com)  
319-750-4454-cell  
319-753-8212-office



# Conference/Event Report

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## **Chris Lee, Director**

*ISAC Spring Conference, March 9-11 – Des Moines, IA*

The conference started with County Day at the Capitol. ICCS hosted an informational booth. Meeting with legislators proved difficult due to conflicting schedules but I did get to meet Senator Reichman who will serve our district next year.

After the lobby event, there was a meeting with some CCB directors and auditors at the DNR building to discuss possibly changing the REAP \$0.22 reporting form. Our budget director attended with me. For almost two hours, two to three people dominated most of the conversation, talking mostly in circles. I'm not sure they accomplished anything.

The sessions started in earnest the next day. There was a general session titled, "Ten Habits of Highly Effective Counties" which was heavily attended. The content was decent. One of the takeaways for me though came from crowd participation. It would appear that many of the fastest growing counties have active strategic plans. Ours does not.

Some sessions specific to the Directors Association were: Hunter Education Program updates, Open meeting laws, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation updates, Keep Iowa Beautiful program, Forest health/invasive species, marketing opportunities with the Iowa Tourism office, and some "County Spotlight" presentations – one of which was Adams County, the smallest county in the state which just finished adding 10-person cottages to their 12 other cabins. They rent them for \$1800 per week in the main season and have already sold the year out. All told, they do about \$500,000 in revenue from their two campgrounds and 14 cabins/cottages at Lake Icaria.

I was recognized for the Business Person of the Year award I got from the Greater Burlington Partnership back in February. They even played the award video. How embarrassing!

I also announced the launch of my podcast (Outdoor Executive Dad) at this conference. It's specifically geared toward the likes of directors and other CCB employees.

We ended the conference with a discussion about updating the CCDA Strategic Plan. That session could certainly have been better organized, but it was after lunch on a Friday. Everyone was ready to go home.

In all, it was a good conference, though I think the logistics and moderating could have been better.

End of Report