

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
THIRTEENTH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (13)  
MARCH 17, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, Snyder, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: None.

Unless otherwise indicated, all the following **motions** offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg., Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker to approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Croker started the meeting by **congratulating** Jaidyn Coon of the Storm Lake High School boys basketball team, for being named Iowa's Mr. Basketball 2026.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that the DOT is still reviewing plans on Projects **FM-CO11(121)--55-11 Business 71 and FM-CO11(120)--55-11 N14**, so no action will be taken on these today. These plans will be on next week's agenda for approval.

**Secondary Road Report:** The crew replaced a crossroad culvert, and they are still working on ditch cleanup. They plowed snow yesterday, and with the temperature warming up this week, the snow should all be gone by the end of the week. Wilkinson updated the Board with the updated schedule for the May 12 DOT meeting with landowners and the public for the Phase 3 project. The DOT will be available on May 12 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. for landowners to stop in and speak to the project team about their property, and then the public information meeting/open house (no formal presentation) will be from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Alta Community Center. Wilkinson informed the Board that regarding Phase 2, the contractor is watching the forecast to see when they can start on 80<sup>th</sup> Ave. with dirt work.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve the **minutes** of 3/10/2026 as presented, and accept the following **reports:** February Conservation Board minutes, February BV County Solid Waste Agency minutes, February Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected, and March Safety Committee minutes. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen presented information to the Board regarding contracts for Westlaw Legal Research platform and for CLEAR Investigation platform. Allen recommended going with a 5-year contract for both services. Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize County Attorney Paul Allen to sign 5-year contracts for both **Westlaw and CLEAR**. Carried.

President/CEO Curt Strouth, VP of Economic Development Trevor Smith, and Business Retention & Workforce Partnership Coordinator Joanne Follon, **Iowa Lakes Corridor**, presented their 2025 Annual Report. They reviewed some of the recent new programs that were implemented in 2025 including Homegrown Talent Initiative and the Big IDEA Challenge, along with Build My Future, which will be new for 2026. Their Build My Future event will be held April 23 at the Clay County Regional Events Center. Strouth informed the Board that the Homegrown Talent fundraising golf event will be held July 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Buena Vista University Golf Course. Follon gave an update on business retention and expansion.

Chairman Merten asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public** and there was none.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson presented the annual noxious weed resolution. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve **Resolution #2026-03-17-B**, Public Notice Destruction of Noxious Weeds & Fines Assessed, and to authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

**RESOLUTION #2026-03-17-B**  
**A PUBLIC NOTICE: DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS & FINES ASSESSED**

**TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS:**

Be it resolved, by action of the Board of Supervisors of Buena Vista County, Iowa, that pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 317.13 and 317.14, 2026 Code of Iowa, it is hereby ordered:

1-That each owner and each person in the possession or control of any land in Buena Vista County shall cut, burn, spray, or otherwise destroy all noxious weeds thereon, at such times in each year and in such manner as shall prevent said weeds from blooming or coming to maturity, and shall keep said lands free from such growth of any other weeds as shall render the streets or highways adjoining said land unsafe for public travel. Noxious weeds shall be cut, burned, sprayed, or otherwise destroyed on or before the following dates and as often thereafter as is necessary to prevent seed production:

Group 1. June 1, 2026, for Leafy Spurge and Musk Thistle.

Group 2. July 1, 2026, for Canada Thistle, Teasel and Field Bindweed.

Group 3. August 1, 2026, for Palmer Amaranth, Multiflora Rose, Bull and Plumeless Thistles.

2-That each owner and each person in possession or control of any lands in Buena Vista County infested with any noxious weeds listed for eradication or control by the Agriculture and Land Stewardship Department Administrative Rules Chapter 58.4 shall adopt a program of weed destruction described by the Weed Commissioner to destroy and will immediately keep under control such infestations of said noxious weeds.

3-That if the owners or persons in possession or control of any land in Buena Vista County fail to comply with the foregoing orders, the Weed Commissioner shall cause this to be done and the expense of said work, including costs of serving notice and other costs, if any, to be assessed against the real estate upon which the noxious weeds are destroyed.

4-That the County Weed Commissioner be and is hereby directed to cause notice of making and entering of the foregoing order by one publication each of the Official Newspapers of the County.

5-Anyone wishing not to have noxious weeds sprayed within the right-of-way adjacent to dwellings or property by Buena Vista County, he or she shall sign an annual agreement by June 1st at the County Conservation Board Office and receive official signs to be posted on each side of the area designated and shall be responsible to destroy such weeds, all season.

6-Buena Vista County primarily uses Milestone and TerraVue herbicide for noxious weed control within the road right-of-way. For individuals who harvest hay from the County's right-of-way consult the Milestone and TerraVue labels for possible haying and grazing restrictions. Any additional concerns may be directed to the County Weed Commissioner.

7-The Weed Commissioner, Greg Johnson or Deputy Weed Commissioner, Brian Jones are located at the Buena Vista County Conservation Board office. 377 440<sup>th</sup> Street, Peterson, Iowa 51047. Telephone-712-295-7985.

**PENALTY**

Be it further Resolved, that upon failure to comply by the date prescribed in an order, pursuant to Chapter 317, for destruction of weeds, the weed commissioner, following notice, may enter upon the land without consent and have the weeds destroyed with the costs of such action taxed against the real estate on which the weeds were destroyed, or may impose a penalty of \$10.00 per day for each day, up to ten days, that the owner or person in possession or control of the land fails to comply, after which, the weed commissioner, following notice, may enter

upon the land without consent and have the weeds destroyed with the costs of such action taxed against the real estate on which the weeds were destroyed.

Passed and approved on this 17th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chair-Board of Supervisors.....Attest: Susan K. Lloyd, County Auditor

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson presented the 2026 DOT Roadway Maintenance Agreement from April 15, 2026 and ending November 15, 2026. This agreement is for a spring application and a fall application for weed abatement and control spraying of highway right-of-way along IA Highway 3, IA Highway 7, IA Highway 110, and US Highway 71 in Buena Vista County. Johnson stated that the same area is covered, and the amount charged the State is the same at \$45,000. Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **DOT 2026 Roadside Maintenance Agreement**. Carried.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson gave a **department update**. Conservation: Normal operations, getting equipment ready and doing maintenance. They have been cutting trees at the county park and the marina. They are prepping the bait shop at Linn Grove. Linn Grove Dam: Johnson stated that they are appealing how FEMA has written the contract for repairing the LG Dam. Marina: They are fixing docks and waiting on the contractor to show up for the cement work. The bait shop is in operation. Johnson stated that the surveys have been filed and they are waiting on the DNR to complete the paperwork to transfer the Marina to the County.

There being no further business, motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. until **Wednesday, March 25** at 8:30 a.m. for a special session and a regular session. Carried.