

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **January 24, 2022**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Hillary Hughes, Steve Emerson, Cindy Burke, Brent Oleson, and George Kanz

Member Oleson joined the meeting by phone. Hughes joined the meeting at 12:09 PM.

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Shaun Reilly, Resource Manager

Others Present

Todd Happel, Anderson Bogert Engineers

Call To Order

Board Secretary Emerson called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

George Kanz was administered the Oath of Office by Board Secretary Steve Emerson.

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve the consent agenda.

Vote: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Hughes

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the December 20, 2021 monthly meeting

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2022-7.
Claims and Transfer list #2022-7 involving claim #7-723 through #8-817.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the December 2021 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the December 2021 activity report.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

01/24/2022

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. None

ITEM C6. Report out of closed session – 15-acre Buffalo Creek Park land acquisition completed.

ITEM C7. Authorize the purchase of a Huffcut restroom building.

ITEM C8. Authorize the Director to sign an engineering and design contract for the Bird Preserve

ITEM C9. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discuss and decide regarding a lease agreement with Feed Iowa First for 17-acres at Wanatee Park.

Goemaat reviewed a lease agreement with Feed Iowa First for 17-acres at Wanatee Park to operate and manage an organic farm program. Kanz asked where the property was located. Goemaat confirmed the location is south of Lakeside Road.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve a lease agreement with Feed Iowa First pending final legal review and to authorize the Director to sign the lease.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Hughes

ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on the 2022 Conservation Board annual agenda.

Goemaat reviewed the proposed 2022 Conservation Board annual agenda.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve the annual agenda as presented.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Hughes

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

01/24/2022

ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on the 2021 Annual Report and authorize publication.

Schlader reviewed the draft 2021 Annual Report.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve the 2021 Annual Report as presented and authorize publication.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Hughes

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to sell a CAT skid steer and purchase a Bobcat skid steer.

Goemaat reviewed a proposal to sell and replace a CAT skid steer with a Bobcat equivalent unit that would accept Bobcat attachments currently used across districts.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To authorize the sale of the CAT skid steer and purchase of a Bobcat skid steer.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Hughes

ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding accepting the deed for the Bird Preserve and designating the area as open to bow hunting for deer only.

Gibbins reviewed the gifted deed of the Bird Preserve and agreement details for development planning and management of the property.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2022-1 accepting the deed, naming the property as the Bird Preserve, and designating the area as open to bow hunting of deer only.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Hughes

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

01/24/2022

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide regarding a purchase award to furnish firewood for use in Linn County campgrounds.

Member Hughes joined the meeting at 12:09 PM. Gibbins reviewed proposals received for a firewood purchase request for proposals (RFP) issued in January for the delivery and supply of bundled firewood by a vendor for resale in Linn County Conservation campgrounds. Hughes asked how State campgrounds sell firewood. Goemaat noted conversations were primarily with other county conservation departments and not with state campgrounds, but that staff could follow-up in the future with the State. Emerson noted he thought Pleasant Lake State Park sells firewood but didn't know specifics.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve the Kroul Farms, LLC Proposal and award a purchase award to Kroul Farms, LLC for firewood purchase by Linn County Conservation for the 2022 camping season.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: none

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Board President to sign an agreement with IDOT for a State Recreation Trail Grant for paving a section of the Grant Wood Trail.

Burke reviewed an agreement with IDOT for a State Recreation Trail Grant for paving a section of the Grant Wood Trail.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve the agreement and authorize the Board President to sign the agreement with IDOT on behalf of the Board.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: none

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

01/24/2022

ITEM R9. Election of Officers for 2022 (Conservation Board)

1. President

2. Vice-President

3. Secretary

Goemaat noted term dates for each member and Board policy parameters for choosing officers. Emerson confirmed officer selection based on term tenure would install Hughes as President, Emerson as Vice-President and Burke as Secretary.

Motion by Kanz, second by Burke

Motion to elect Hillary Hughes as Board President, Steve Emerson as Board Vice-President and Cindy Burke as Board Secretary for 2022.

Vote: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: none

ITEM R10. Board member / staff reports – Board members and staff may report and/or discuss meetings or activities in which they have been involved.

- 1) Community Outreach/Marketing: Ryan Schlader reported on marketing and communications, the annual report, cross-country skiing activity, tourism advertising and seasonal hiring.
- 2) Updates:
 - a. ARPA project funding proposal submissions – Gibbins reported on applications submitted for ARPA funding for projects at Pinicon Ridge Park, Wanatee Park and the Dows Agri-Community.
 - b. Conservation Corps crew – Gibbins reported on hiring status by the Conservation Corps for the Linn County permanent crew contract. Hughes asked when Department seasonal applications are advertised. Gibbins confirmed the posting period for seasonal applications is typically late December through the end of January.
 - c. Pinicon Ridge Dam modification project – Gibbins and Goemaat reported on status and progress of the Pinicon Ridge Dam modification project in Central City. Board Consensus was to move forward with the bid process as the design process allows.
 - d. Excess IDOT Right-of-way near Lisbon – Goemaat reported on IDOT offer of excess property to Linn County. Hughes asked how close this property was to the next Cedar County property. Goemaat was uncertain but reported the property information was sent to Cedar County Conservation.
 - e. Offer to donate Nature Conservancy properties – Goemaat reported on findings concerning a potential donation of two properties by The Nature Conservancy.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

01/24/2022

- f. Cedar Valley Trail overpass of Fishel Road – Goemaat reported on next steps to replace the trail bridge at Fishel Road following the recent collision that destroyed the bridge. Hughes asked about assignment of responsibility. Goemaat noted a meeting was scheduled with Legal to discuss the topic in regard to responsibility. Hughes asked if a temporary ramp could be made to cross Fischel Road at the old bridge location. Goemaat noted staff had considered this option, but that this would be very difficult due to major grade differences between the trail and road. Randy Burke noted use of current bridge foundations would expedite the process if major changes to the road width and bridge heights were needed. Kanz noted the plan to put a sign up to show where users are in relation to connecting roads was a good plan. Goemaat described the timeline to get pre-stressed bridge beams for a construction contract. Goemaat also noted that this is a very steep section of trail and raising the bridge would add complexity to the design. Kanz asked how this would impact staff maintenance. Reilly noted the impact would be minimal because the old bridge was currently a choke point due to size limitations for maintenance vehicles. Hughes asked who would fund the project. Goemaat noted liability was to be determined as to responsibility, but that we need to move forward while those questions are being determined.
- g. Goemaat reported on two title opinions received for the Alliant corridor. Consensus was to continue title research on the other parcels

ITEM R11. Public comment

None.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

01/24/2022

ITEM R12. Closed Session

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To go into closed session at 12:47 PM for the purpose of discussing acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with section 21.5(1)(j) Code of Iowa.

VOTE: aye: Hughes
 aye: Emerson
 aye: Burke
 aye: Oleson
 aye: Kanz
 nay: none
 absent: none

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

To go out of closed session at 1:06 PM.

VOTE: aye: Hughes
 aye: Emerson
 aye: Burke
 aye: Oleson
 aye: Kanz
 nay: none
 absent: none

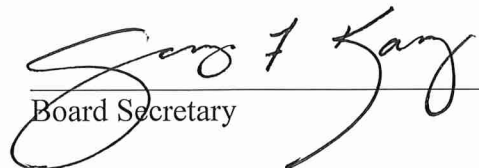
ITEM R13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary