

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD



MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **April 24, 2023**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Cindy Burke, Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann
Member Kanz was appointed acting President. Member Hausmann was appointed acting Secretary.
Brent Oleson and Cindy Burke joined the meeting by phone.

Board Members Absent

Steve Emerson

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Ryan Schlader Communications

Others Present

Dave Lamka

Call To Order

Kanz called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Public Comment

Dave Lamka asked for an update on the Grant Wood Trail projects.

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Hausmann, second by Burke

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the March 27, 2023 meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2023-10.

Claims and Transfer list #2023-10 involving claim #10-1147 through #10-1231.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the March 2023 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the March 2023 activity report.

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ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #62-2023 – Monetary donation (\$50) from Tess Goudy for Morgan Creek Park in Memory of Mary Brizzee.
2. Gift #63-2023 – Monetary donation (\$150) from Wesley Becker for undesignated support of the conservation program.
3. Gift #64-2023 – Donation of 8 balled and burlap oak trees from Dale Peterson for planting at Wickiup Hill Learning Center.

ITEM C6. Approve FY2024 road seal coat program and authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract with L.L. Pelling for the seal coat applications.

ITEM C7. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-10 setting the date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the 52nd Street underpass on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Project #5-21B.

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2023-10 setting the date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the 52nd Street underpass on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Project #5-21B.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2023-10 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the 52nd Street underpass on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Project #5-21B.

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

ITEM R3. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the solar array projects, Project #20-21.

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the solar array projects, Project #20-21. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Burke, second by Hausmann

To close the public hearing.

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

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ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-11, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the solar array projects, Project #20-21.

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2023-11, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the solar array projects, Project #20-21.

MOTION by Burke, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2023-11, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the solar array projects, Project #20-21.

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

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding a letter of agreement for trail mowing with the city of Urbana for management of a segment of the Cedar Valley Trail from city hall to highway 150 and authorizing the Board President and Secretary to sign the agreement.

Gibbins reviewed an agreement for trail mowing with the city of Urbana for management of a segment of the Cedar Valley Trail from city hall to highway 150.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Burke

To approve the agreement with the City of Urbana for mowing and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the Agreement.

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

ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for installing a metal roof for Woodpecker Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorizing the Director to sign the contract.

Goemaat reviewed a contract for installing a metal roof for Woodpecker Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park.

MOTION by Burke, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

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ITEM R7. Discuss and decide regarding accepting ownership of Hanging Bog and Behrens Pond from The Nature Conservancy and authorizing the Director to sign the deeds.

Goemaat reviewed an offer by The Nature Conservancy to donate two parcels of land to Linn County for ownership. Burke asked about the background of the naming of the Hanging Bog. Goemaat described the topography of the land.

MOTION by Burke, second by Hausmann

To approve acceptance of the Hanging Bog and Behrens Pond properties and authorize the Director to sign the deeds.

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

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to submit a State Historic Preservation Grant application for repairs to the Center Point depot.

Gibbins reviewed a State Historic Preservation Grant application for repairs to the Center Point depot. Kanz asked about the condition of older repairs. Gibbins confirmed previous repairs seem to be holding.

MOTION by Burke, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize staff to submit the grant application for Center Point Depot repairs.

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

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ITEM R9. Discuss and decide regarding an agreement with the Center Point Historical Society for use of the Center Point Depot and authorizing the President and Secretary to sign the agreement.

Gibbins reviewed an agreement with the Center Point Historical Society for use of the Center Point Depot.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Burke

To approve the agreement and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the contract.

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

ITEM R10. Discuss and decide regarding a construction easement for Watson Services, Inc. for work on the Bird Preserve and authorize the Director to sign the easement.

Gibbins reviewed a construction easement for Watson Services, Inc. for work on the Bird Preserve.

MOTION by Burke, second by Hausmann

To approve the construction easement and authorize the Director to sign the easement.

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

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ITEM R11. Board member / staff reports – Board members and staff may report and/or discuss meetings or activities in which they have been involved. (Conservation Board & staff)

1. Community Outreach and Marketing - Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 - a. Pinicon Ridge dam progress – Gibbins updated the Board on the Pinicon Ridge Dam progress. Oleson asked how Central City was responding to the project. Goemaat noted positive discussions and comments for the project. Oleson suggested project follow-up communications to illustrate use after the project is completed.
 - b. Conservation partners meeting – Gibbins updated the Board on the Conservation Partners meeting in March.
 - c. Bond review committee – Goemaat updated the Board on the status of the Bond Review Board. Oleson asked if staff could provide some information on the Bond Review Board to help advertise applications. Staff confirmed they will work with the Communications Department to gather that information.

ITEM R12. Public comment

None.

ITEM R13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 PM. Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary