

**LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **April 25, 2022**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

**Board Members Present**

Steve Emerson, Cindy Burke, Brent Oleson, George Kanz  
Member Oleson joined the meeting by phone.

**Board Members Absent**

Hillary Hughes, Steve Emerson

**Staff Present**

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ted Doscher, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist;

**Others Present**

None

**Call To Order**

Kanz called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM

**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, Emerson

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

**ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the March 28, 2022 monthly meeting**

**ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2022-10.**  
Claims and Transfer list #2022-10 involving claim #10-1124 through #10-1253.

**ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the March 2022 financial/budget report.**

**ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the March 2022 activity report.**

**ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**04/25/2022**

1. Gift #27-2022 - Monetary donation (\$7,500) from Linn County REC for support of the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project.

**ITEM C6. Authorize the Director to sign a professional services agreement with WHKS to study alternatives for repairs to the Troy Mills Access boat ramp.**

**ITEM C7. Authorize the purchase of a pedestrian bridge at Morgan Creek Park damaged during the derecho.**

**ITEM C8. Capital Improvement Program updates**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**ITEM R2. Discuss and decide on resolution #2022-10 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for paving the Grant Wood Trail from Marion to Oxley Road, Project #21-21.**

Randy Burke reviewed resolution #2022-10 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for paving the Grant Wood Trail from Marion to Oxley Road, Project #21-21.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2022-10 setting the public hearing and authorizing staff to receive and open bids.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                     nay: none  
                     absent: Hughes, Emerson

**ITEM R3. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the solar installations on county conservation areas, 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 costs for the solar installations on county conservation areas, Project #20-21. The published notice of the public hearing was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To close the public hearing.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                     nay: none  
                     absent: Hughes, Emerson

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**04/25/2022**

**ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-11, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the solar installations on county conservation areas, Project #20-21.**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2022-11, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the solar installations on county conservation areas, Project #20-21.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To adopt Resolution #2022-11 indicating that a public hearing was held and approving the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for the solar installations on county conservation areas, Project #20-21.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                  nay: none  
                  absent: Hughes, Emerson

**ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding approving Fish Habitat Agreement 22-11F with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for fish habitat development in conjunction with the dam modification project at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #2-19 and authorizing staff to sign the agreement.**

Gibbins reviewed the Fish Habitat Agreement 22-11F with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for fish habitat development in conjunction with the dam modification project at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #2-19.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve Fish Habitat Agreement 22-11F with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and authorize staff to sign the agreement.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                  nay: none  
                  absent: Hughes, Emerson

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**04/25/2022**

**ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding accepting ownership of excess Iowa Department of Transportation right-of-way near Lisbon and authorizing the Director to work with IDOT to complete the property transfer.**

Goemaat reviewed a recommendation concerning the offer to transfer ownership of excess Iowa Department of Transportation right-of-way near Lisbon. Burke asked about ownership outside of Linn County. Goemaat described the management of the property and confirmed the ability to acquire property outside of Linn County.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To authorize the Director to work with the IDOT to complete the property transfer.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                  nay: none  
                  absent: Hughes, Emerson

**ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on approving a contract for application of GSB asphalt preservative on a 10-mile section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.**

Randy Burke reviewed a contract for application of GSB asphalt preservative on a 10-mile section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve the contract for GSB application and authorize staff to sign the contract.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                  nay: none  
                  absent: Hughes, Emerson

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**04/25/2022**

**ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Board President to sign quit claim deeds transferring ownership of two parcels of land to Linn County, Iowa.**

Goemaat reviewed two quit claim deeds to transfer ownership of two parcels of land to Linn County, Iowa.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve the transfer of the two properties through quit claim deed and authorize the Board Secretary to sign the quit claim deeds.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                      nay: none  
                      absent: Hughes, Emerson

**ITEM R9. Discuss and decide on a joint grant proposal with the City of Cedar Rapids to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for a joint trail plan and committing to 50% of the required match.**

Randy Burke reviewed a joint grant proposal with the City of Cedar Rapids to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for a joint trail planning process.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve and authorize staff to sign the grant proposal to the MPO committing to a 50% funding match.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                      nay: none  
                      absent: Hughes, Emerson

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**04/25/2022**

**ITEM R10. Discuss and decide on resolution #2022-12 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for development project for the Bird Preserve, Project #30-21**

Doscher reviewed resolution #2022-12 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the development project for the Bird Preserve, Project #30-21.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2022-12 setting the public hearing and authorizing staff to receive and open bids.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                      nay: none  
                      absent: Hughes, Emerson

**ITEM R11. Discuss and decide regarding a professional services agreement with JEO for wetland enhancement and conservation planning services and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.**

Gibbins reviewed a professional services agreement with JEO for wetland enhancement and conservation planning services on Linn County areas.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve the agreement with JEO for planning services and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                      nay: none  
                      absent: Hughes, Emerson

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**04/25/2022**

**ITEM R12. Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for the Morgan Creek bridge to the off-leash dog exercise area and authorizing the Director to sign the contract.**

Doscher reviewed a contract for the Morgan Creek Park bridge to the off-leash dog exercise area. Low bid received was from Boomerang for \$113,474.00. Bids received are as follows:

Contractor	Bid
Jim Schroeder Construction	\$152,292.50
PCI	\$294,913.00
Boomerang	\$113,474.00
Taylor	\$163,087.50

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve a contract with Boomerang to set the Morgan Creek bridge and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                  nay: none  
                  absent: Hughes, Emerson

**ITEM R13. Discuss and decide regarding a proposal to the Iowa Department of Transportation for repurposing a Mississippi River Bridge for the Cedar River crossing on the Morgan Creek Trail.**

Gibbins and Goemaat reviewed a proposal to the Iowa Department of Transportation for repurposing a Mississippi River Bridge for the Cedar River crossing on the Morgan Creek Trail. Burke asked about the construction process. Kanz asked if the old piers would need to be removed. Goemaat confirmed the future of the existing piers would be a part of the design process.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To authorize staff to forward a proposal to the IDNR requesting repurposing a Mississippi bridge for the Cedar River crossing on the Morgan Creek Trail.

**VOTE:**        aye: all present  
                  nay: none  
                  absent: Hughes, Emerson

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

04/25/2022

**ITEM R14. Discuss and decide on approving Resolution #2022-13 authorizing submission of a Destination Iowa grant application.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2022-13 authorizing submission of a Destination Iowa grant application.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2022-13 authorizing staff to submit a Destination Iowa grant application.

**VOTE:**            aye: all present  
                      nay: none  
                      absent: Hughes, Emerson

**ITEM R15. Board member / staff reports – Board members and staff may report and/or discuss meetings or activities in which they have been involved.**

1. Ryan Schlader – Community Outreach and Marketing. Schlader reported on various marketing, event and communications efforts.
2. Updates:
  - a) Date for Morgan Creek Park grand opening – Goemaat reviewed a recommended date for the grand opening of the Morgan Creek Park project. Board consensus was to look at May 20<sup>th</sup> for the opening.
  - b) Randy Burke updated the Board on the Fishel Road Bridge reconstruction timeline.

**ITEM R16. Public comment**

None.

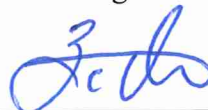
**ITEM R17. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM  
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary