

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Zumbach, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Running-Marquardt. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Zumbach called the meeting to order.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – budget update; General Assistance: working on Alliance for Equitable Housing; working with IT and GIS to update community resource sheets; received an additional allocation for emergency rent assistance; National Alliance on Homelessness will be coming into Cedar Rapids to do a deep analysis; Juvenile Detention: guest speakers since they do not have summer teachers; two independent youth shelters are closing and Foundation 2 is reducing its bed capacity by half; girls program will be opening up in Cedar Rapids that referrals are anticipated from; camera updates continue; Child & Youth Development: working on enrollment packets; Options: received two grants for operational spending; received additional grant for training of staff; nursing contract was ended by All Heart Staffing (looking at options to get it staffed); East Central Region: funding was increased as part of their effort to reduce their fund balance; Governing Board structure is changing and will only include 6 of 9 counties at any one time. Appointments have been completed for the LCCS Board.

Daniel Gibbins, Conservation Deputy Dir. – highlighted progress of campground projects; trail projects; mountain bike trail; camping occupancy rates at normal levels; proposals received for three solar arrays; Pinicon Ridge dam modifications - Conservation Board has expressed interest in holding a joint meeting/field trip with the Board potentially in August.

Supervisor Rogers expressed the tremendous amount of work that is being done, noting the impact to the quality of life. It is a very inspiring report, and a lot of great work is being done.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. – held meeting with the Health and Human Services Director and her team earlier this month; purchase order for the mobile health clinic was approved; harmful ozone levels have been detected; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's team joined the implementation team on site to learn about the implementation strategies in the community; strategic plan; upcoming Board of Health annual reception; legislator conversations; Dwivedi was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health; racial equity institute training; recent national engagements.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation – Indian Creek Soil Health partnership update including educational booth at the Linn County Fair on June 29th; finalizing CRP contract; sign up window for fall cover crops is now open; provided technical guidance for 10 mid-contract management review and/or expiring Conservation Reserve Program sites; working with Cedar Rapids Clean Water Partnership Batch and Build Project through the conservation plan process in order to maintain targeted construction schedule for fall of 2023; Weed Commissioner activities; City of Center Point began construction activities associated with their Urban Water Quality Initiative contract; assisting IDALS staff with field visits associated with 2020 Derecho disaster recovery awards.

Dustin Peterson, Veterans Affairs Dir. – budget update; services to veterans; claims for benefits (100); will have booth at Voices of Hope (St. Mark's Church); assisting active duty military submit papers for discharge; Iowa Veteran's trust fund reopened in April and able to assist a veteran; Veteran's Community Alliance; participated in Foundation 2 training earlier this month; helped 218 veteran's for new military tax exemption; working with community partner to host a coffee club; 3,903 Linn County veterans received federal benefits.

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. – budget update; one staff vacancy; KPI's; data breach with software the county uses; kicking off major projects including Teams phone (9-12 month project); launching SharePoint as well; approaching Microsoft renewal (every 3 years); rolling out FY24 computer replacements.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Dir. – garden and nutrition class has launched for the year; visiting a food pantry and partner to increase access and energy efficiency; will be at the Linn County Fair Thursday and Friday; greenhouse gas inventory report nearing completion; working with IT to create solar permit dashboard; working with EMA on disaster preparedness template for community based organizations; AmeriCorp program: rain barrel program; member received Governor's voluntary award; meeting with HR to compile questions for coordinator position; meeting with Budget and Finance about year-end financial information.

Adjournment at 10:40 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Hoy, Executive Assistant

APPROVED BY:

LOUIS J. ZUMBACH, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors