

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD



MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JULY 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 **July 24, 2023**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Steve Emerson, George Kanz, Cindy Burke

Board Members Absent

Brent Oleson, Kendal Hausmann

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Ryan Schlader Communications; Ted Doscher, Planner; Randy Burke, Planner

Others Present

Representatives from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Call To Order

Emerson called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.

Member Kanz was appointed acting Secretary.

Public Comment

None.

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve the consent agenda.

Vote: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting.

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2024-1.

Claims and Transfer list #2024-1 involving claim #12-1456 through #1-94.

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

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

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. None.

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21A.

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21A. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To close the public hearing.

VOTE: aye: all present
nay: none
absent: Oleson, Hausmann

ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-15, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21A.

Randy Burke reviewed the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21A.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2023-15, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21A.

VOTE: aye: all present
nay: none
absent: Oleson, Hausmann

ITEM R4. Discuss and decide regarding bids received for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorizing the Director to sign a contract with the selected contractor, Project #29-21A

Randy Burke reviewed the bid received for Project #29-21A. Staff recommended rejection of the bid received and to rebid the project due to the bid exceeding the architect's estimate.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To reject the bid and authorize staff to rebid and open bids for the project.

VOTE: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding bids received for applying a gravel surface to the Creekside Road to Paralta Road segment of the Grant Wood Trail.

Doscher reviewed bids received for applying a gravel surface to the Creekside Road to Paralta Road segment of the Grant Wood Trail. The low bid received was \$208,111.20 from Peterson Contractors Inc. Bids received were as follows:

Bidder	Bid Amount
Peterson Contractors Inc.	\$208,111.20
Rathje Contruaction Co.	\$234,309.00
Boomerang Corp.	\$249,492.47
TSCHIGGFRIE Excavating Co.	\$276,985.70
Midwest Concrete, Inc.	\$287,148.24
Lodge Construction Inc.	\$310,241.00

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve the low bid from Peterson Contractors Inc. for \$208,111.20 and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

VOTE: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

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ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding closing Mount Hope at Matsell Bridge Natural Area to camping effective with the 2024 recreation season.

Goemaat and the Board discussed closing Mount Hope at Matsell Bridge Natural Area to camping effective with the 2024 recreation season.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve closing Mount Hope at Matsell Bridge Natural Area to camping effective with the 2024 recreation season and remove it from the fee schedule.

VOTE: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-16, approving an application for funding assistance from the State Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for funding assistance to acquire 56 acres adjacent to the Bird Preserve and authorizing staff to sign the application.

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2023-16, approving an application for funding assistance from the State Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for funding assistance to acquire 56 acres adjacent to the Bird Preserve.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-16 and authorize staff to sign the application.

VOTE: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Cedar Rapids for construction of the Morgan Creek Trail near the Cedar Rapids Water Treatment plant.

Randy Burke reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Cedar Rapids for construction of the Morgan Creek Trail near the Cedar Rapids Water Treatment plant.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve the Memorandum of Understanding.

VOTE: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

ITEM R9. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-17, authorizing a grant application for funding assistance from the Water Recreation Access grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for modifications to the Troy Mills Natural Area boat ramp.

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2023-17, authorizing a grant application for funding assistance from the Water Recreation Access grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for modifications to the Troy Mills Natural Area boat ramp.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2023-17 and authorize staff to sign the application.

VOTE: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

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ITEM R10. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-18, authorizing a grant application for funding assistance from the Water Recreation Access grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for constructing a boat/kayak ramp and access near Waubeek.

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2023-18, authorizing a grant application for funding assistance from the Water Recreation Access grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for constructing a boat/kayak ramp and access near Waubeek.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2023-18 and authorize staff to sign the application.

VOTE: aye: all present
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson, Hausmann

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 campground expansion project - Goemaat and Randy Burke updated the Board on the Pinicon Ridge campground expansion project, related to the anticipated total cost of the project.
 - b. Joint meeting with the Linn County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 29 at Pinicon Ridge Park - Goemaat updated the Board on the joint meeting with the Linn County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 29 at Pinicon Ridge Park.

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ITEM R12. Public comment

None.

ITEM R13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m. Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary

SEAL