



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JULY 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 **July 25, 2022**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Steve Emerson, Hillary Hughes, George Kanz, Cindy Burke

Board Members Absent

Brent Oleson

Cindy Burke left the meeting at 1:14 PM.

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ted Doscher, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Aaron Batchelder, Resource Manager

Others Present

Emily Williamson and Jeff Rath, Shive-Hattery participated via Teams online; Robert Sweet, Jean McDonagh, Mary Clapp, Dennis Brant

Call To Order

President Hughes called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the June 27, 2022 monthly meeting

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2023-1.

Claims and Transfer list #2023-1 involving claim #12-1508 through #1-121

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

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

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ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #1-2023 - Monetary donation (\$25) from Deanna Thursby for support of the education program at Wickiup Hill.

ITEM C6. Authorize the Director to sign a contract with Ritland Kuiper for design of the arboretum and campground expansion at Morgan Creek Park.

ITEM C7. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Presentation by Shive Hattery regarding preliminary plans for a new campground loop at Pinicon Ridge Park.

Shive Hattery staff Emily Williamson and Jeff Rath updated the Board on preliminary planning work for the Pinicon Ridge campground expansion project. Hughes asked about cabin and roadway locations. Goemaat noted a potential future solar addition. Kanz commented about the Alliant solar garden concept. Hughes asked about reservable campsites. Burke asked about solar cost recovery. Hughes asked about campground and trail connectivity.

No Motion was made.

ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-24 amending the Board's Rules and Regulations section 28 regarding profanity and obscenity.

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2022-24 amending the Board's Rules and Regulations section 28 regarding profanity and obscenity. Hughes asked about other agency approaches to this issue. Goemaat described staff research of other agency rules. Kanz asked about enforcement options. Goemaat described possible enforcement approaches. Hughes asked if other options have been pursued. Goemaat described ongoing issues with signs in campgrounds. Goemaat and the Board discussed upcoming consideration of dog rules.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

To adopt Resolution #2022-24 amending the Board's Rules and Regulations section 28.

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

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ITEM R4. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.

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 playground at Buffalo Creek Park, Project 26-21. Proof of publication was presented hearing was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received. A delay in receiving final plans and specifications from the engineers required the Board not take action to approve.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To close the public hearing.

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

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-25 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.

Doscher reviewed resolution #2022-25 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2022-25 setting the public hearing and authorizing staff to receive and open bids.

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

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ITEM R6. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification, Project 2-19.

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 Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification, Project 2-19. 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

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-26, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification, Project 2-19.

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2022-26, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification, Project 2-19.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson

To adopt Resolution #2022-26 indicating that a public hearing was held and approving the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification, Project 2-19.

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

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ITEM R8. Discuss and decide on awarding a contract for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project 2-19.

Gibbins reviewed bids received for the Pinicon Ridge Park Dam modification, Project 2-19. Bids received were as follows:

Bidder	Amount
Boomerang Corp.	\$3,878,834.02
Taylor Construction	\$4,432,235.00

Hughes asked about timing of award in regard to bid review. Gibbins noted the extended timeline built into the notice to bidders to allow 45 days for review and that staff recommendation was to delay award until the August meeting to allow further bid review.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson

To delay bid award until the August Board meeting.

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

ITEM R9. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for hard surfacing the parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project #6-22.

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for hard surfacing the parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project 6-22. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To close the public hearing.

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

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ITEM R10. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-27, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for hard surfacing the parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project #6-22.

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2022-27, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for hard surfacing the parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project #6-22.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson

To adopt Resolution #2022-27 indicating that a public hearing was held and approving the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for hard surfacing the parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project #6-22.

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

ITEM R11. Discuss and decide on awarding a contract for hard surfacing the parking areas at Wanatee Park and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #6-22.

Doscher reviewed bids received for hard surfacing the parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project #6-22. The only bid received was from LL Pelling for \$438,037.50. Goemaat noted additional LOST funds would be used.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve the bid from LL Pelling for \$438,037.50 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

ITEM R12. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-28, 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 129 acres along the Cedar River.

Gibbins reviewed resolution #2022-28 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 129 acres along the Cedar River.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2022-28 and authorize staff to submit the grant application on behalf of the Board.

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

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ITEM R13. Board member / staff reports – Board members and staff may report and/or discuss meetings or activities in which they have been involved.

1. Staff reports - Community Outreach – Ryan Schlader reported on various marketing, event and communications efforts including the Oak Hickory newsletter August addition, Iowa State drone camp, County Communications Plan update, carry in carry out policy, Destination Iowa Grant, Little Village adds, and other media efforts.
2. Updates:
 - a. Discuss Destination Iowa grant award for paving the Cedar Valley Trail - Goemaat updated the Board on coordination efforts with Black Hawk County and design engineers. Goemaat also noted funding to address the required match will need to be identified.
 - b. Discuss excess Road Department property adjacent to Morgan Creek Park - Goemaat reported on upcoming excess property belonging to Linn County that has been suggested as a potential area for a new dog park at Morgan Creek Park.
 - c. Wolf/ADM pipeline project – Goemaat reviewed a potential CO2 pipe line in regard to location and proximity to LCCB properties.
 - d. Solar installation - request for proposal – Goemaat reported on the RFP process for potential solar installations on LCCB properties. Goemaat noted a lack of interest due to current inflation and tariff costs. Kanz noted partnership opportunity with the Alliant solar garden opportunity.
 - e. Goemaat reported on the Conservation Education wilderness trek.

ITEM R14. Public comment

Mary Clapp – Mary commented that she went to the Marion City Council to request the designation of the Grant Wood Trail as a memorial to first responders. Mary noted other users that pick various fruits along the trail, as well as other experiences from local users. Mary asked that the Board delay a decision on development until she reaches out to other first responder groups. Mary asked for the final 2.6 miles of the Linn County owned section to be improved to a grass trail before earlier segments are developed further. Mary described the intention of the American Rescue funds.

Robert Sweet – Robert commented on growing up in Central City and his experiences with the dam growing up. Robert voiced a concern about the method and emphasis on what would be done with the dam as impacting the citizens of Central City more than other communities.

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ITEM R15. Closed Session

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

To go into closed session at 12:55 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: Kanz
 aye: Burke
 nay: none
 absent: Oleson

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To go out of closed session at 1:16 PM.

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

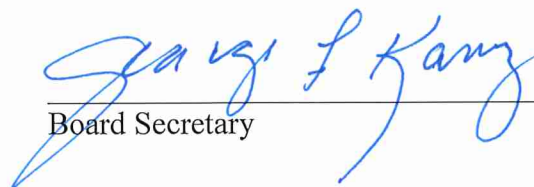
ITEM R16. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary