

**LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **August 29, 2023**, at Woodpecker Lodge in Pinicon Ridge Park, 1850 Woodpecker Hill Road, Central City, IA 52341.

**Board Members Present**

Steve Emerson, George Kanz, Brent Oleson, Kendal Hausmann

**Board Members Absent**

Burke

**Staff Present**

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

**Others Present**

Ben Rogers, Linn County Supervisor; Louis Zumbach, Linn County Supervisor; Kirsten Running-Marquardt, Linn County Supervisor, Jessi Black, Administrative Assistant; Amanda Hoy, Administrative Assistant; Laura Drummy, Linn News

**Call To Order**

Emerson called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. Hausmann was appointed acting Secretary.

**Public Comment**

None.

**ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda**

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the consent agenda.

**Vote:**            aye: all present  
                      nay: none  
                      absent: Burke, Oleson

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

**ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the July 24, 2023 meeting.**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
08/29/2023

ITEM C2. **Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2024-2.**  
Claims and Transfer list #2024-2 involving claim #2-95 through #2-257.

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

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

ITEM C5. **Acceptance of gifts.**

1. Gift #1-2024 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Karen & Darrell Kintzle for woodland/tree restoration in memory of Scott Smith.
2. Gift #2-2024 – Monetary donation (\$700) from Joanne Smith for woodland/tree restoration in memory of Scott Smith.
3. Gift #3-2024 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Julie Kennedy for undesignated support of the conservation program.
4. Gift #4-2024 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Stephen & Lugenia Healy for woodland/tree restoration in memory of Scott Smith.
5. Gift #5-2024 – Monetary donation (\$50) from Beth & Thomas Wahlberg for Cedar Valley Trail improvements in memory of Mark Steine.
6. Gift #6-2024 – Monetary donation (\$50) from Michael & Michelle Gostonczik for Cedar Valley Trail improvements in memory of Mark Steine.
7. Gift #7-2024 – Monetary donation (\$90) from Paul & Sarah Gostonczik for Cedar Valley Trail improvements in memory of Mark Steine.
8. Gift #8-2024 – Donation of materials for five hitching posts in the Matsell Bridge Natural area equestrian campground.
9. Gift #9-2024 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Elizibeth DeBrower for undesignated support of the conservation program.
10. Gift #10-2024 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Kate Payne for the Biechler Bridge on the Morgan Creek Trail.
11. Gift #11-2024 – Monetary donation (\$25) from John and Joan Lubke for Cedar Valley Trail improvements in memory of Mark Steine.

ITEM C6. **Capital Improvement Program updates**

REGULAR AGENDA:

**ITEM R2. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-19 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21.**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-19 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21.

**MOTION** by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2023-19 setting date and time for the public hearing.

**VOTE:** aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Oleson

**ITEM R3. Discuss and decide regarding requesting the Board of Supervisors convey Plat of Survey #786 to Kirk and Kimberly Osborn upon completion of the Grant Wood Trail project along Secrist Road.**

Goemaat reviewed a request for the Board of Supervisors to convey Plat of Survey #786 to Kirk and Kimberly Osborn upon completion of the Grant Wood Trail project along Secrist Road.

**MOTION** by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To authorize staff to request the Board of Supervisors convey Plat of Survey #786 to Kirk and Kimberly Osborn upon completion of the Grant Wood Trail project along Secrist Road.

**VOTE:** aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Oleson

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
08/29/2023

ITEM R4. **Discuss and decide regarding approving an agreement for a farm crossing on the former Alliant Energy corridor.**

Gibbins reviewed a request for an easement agreement for a farm crossing on the former Alliant Energy corridor.

**MOTION** by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

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

ITEM R5. **Discuss and decide on Resolution 2023-20 designating the Sieck addition at Wickiup Hill Natural Area and the Linn County Learning Farm as open to hunting and trapping.**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution 2023-20 designating the Sieck addition at Wickiup Hill Natural Area and the Linn County Learning Farm as open to hunting and trapping.

**MOTION** by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution 2023-20 designating the Sieck addition at Wickiup Hill Natural Area and the Linn County Learning Farm as open to hunting and trapping.

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
08/29/2023**

**ITEM R6.** 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. Cedar Rapids & Linn County Trails and Bikeway Plan – Burke updated the Board on the Trails and Bikeway Plan.
  - b. Staff request to remove Thanksgiving Day from the reservation schedule – Goemaat updated the Board on Thanksgiving Day lodge reservation options as a future discussion item.

**ITEM R7. Public comment**

None.

**The Board went into recess at 10:15 A.M.**

**The Board came out of recess at 10:31 A.M**

Brent Oleson joined the meeting at 10:31 A.M.

**ITEM R8. 10:30 AM – Meet with the Linn County Board of Supervisors to discuss items of mutual interest and tour recent and upcoming projects including:**

The Board toured project locations Pinicon Ridge Park, Buffalo Creek Park and the Pinicon Ridge Park Dam at Central City and received updates on the following projects.

**a) Upcoming bond projects**

Goemaat reviewed various ongoing and upcoming Conservation bond projects.

**b) Central City water discussions**

Gibbins reviewed discussions between staff and Central City leadership concerning an additional City water well concept within the park. Kirsten commented on the Biechler bridge and MPO funding. Kirsten commented on the Bird Preserve.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**08/29/2023**

**c) Central City dam modification**

Gibbins and Batchelder reviewed the Pinicon Ridge Dam project at Central City. Zumbach commented on the river water level. Running-Marquardt commented on project value and accessibility.

**d) Buffalo Creek Park renovation**

Doscher and Goemaat reviewed the Buffalo Creek Park renovation project.

**e) Pinicon Ridge campground expansion**

Randy Burke and Goemaat reviewed the campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge park.

**f) Location for new cabins at Pinicon Ridge Park**

Randy Burk and Goemaat reviewed the Pinicon Ridge Park new cabin site and project details.

**ITEM R9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m. Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



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Recording Secretary



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Board Secretary