



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **October 23, 2023**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

George Kanz, Brent Oleson, Kendal Hausmann, Steve Emerson
Member Emerson joined the meeting by phone.

Board Members Absent

Cindy Burke

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Darrin Gage, Linn County; Rachel Truitt

I. Call To Order

Oleson called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the September 25, 2023 meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2024-4.
Claims and Transfer list #2024-4 involving claim #4-391 through #4-522.
3. Receive and place on file the September 2023 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the September 2023 activity report.

5. Acceptance of gifts.
 1. Gift #13-2024 – Monetary donation (\$650) from Kent Von Behren for support of the South San Juan Wilderness Trek.
 2. Gift #14-2024 – Monetary donation (\$25) from PEO Chapter LF for undesignated support of the conservation program.
 3. Gift #15-2024 – Monetary donation (\$50) from Mike and Nikole McCoy in memory of Paul Farris.
6. Authorize the Board President to sign a letter of appreciation to Rae Jeanne Kilberger for her land donation and development of the Bird Preserve.
7. Capital Improvement Program updates

IV. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve the consent agenda.

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

2. **Meet with Darrin Gage, Linn County Director of Policy and Administration, to discuss possible acquisition of Linn County Roads Morgan Creek shop property. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat, Gage and the Board discussed possible acquisition of the Linn County Roads Morgan Creek shop property. Gage discussed property values and potential transfer fee to acknowledge the Secondary Roads levee fund. Oleson noted potential uses including a potential dog park.

No motion was made.

3. **Discuss legislative priorities for the 2024 Iowa Legislative session.
(Oleson/Goemaat)**

Goemaat and the Board discussed legislative priorities for the 2024 Iowa Legislative session. Oleson discussed the importance of Local Option Sales Tax revenue regarding potential State legislation.

No motion was made.

4. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for hard-surfacing the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Urbana to the Bear Creek Bridge. Project #5-21C. (R. Burke)**

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 Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Urbana to the Bear Creek Bridge. Project #5-21C. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To close the public hearing.

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

5. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-24, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for hard-surfacing the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Urbana to the Bear Creek Bridge. Project #5-21C. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-24, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for hard-surfacing the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Urbana to the Bear Creek Bridge. Project #5-21C.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-24.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to order a single-axle dump truck for delivery during the FY25 budget year. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed a request to order a single-axle dump truck for delivery during the FY25 budget year.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To authorize staff to order a single-axle dump truck for delivery during the FY25 budget year.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding bids received for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorize the Director to sign a contract with the selected contractor, Project #29-21A. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed bids received for cabin construction at Pinicon Ridge Park. Apparent low bid with alternate A was \$513,550 from PEAK Construction Group Inc. Oleson commented on bid pricing and contractor experience.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve the low bid from PEAK Construction Group Inc. and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution 2023-25 supporting Marion's Lucore Trail bridge project and clarifying financial support for the project. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution 2023-25 supporting Marion's Lucore Trail bridge project and clarifying financial support for the project.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To authorize Resolution 2023-25.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding approving an easement at Matsell Bridge Natural Area with Linn County to allow the replacement of the bridge on Matsell Park Road over the Wapsipinicon River and authorize the Board President to sign the easement. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed an easement at Matsell Bridge Natural Area with Linn County to allow the replacement of the bridge on Matsell Park Road over the Wapsipinicon River.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Board President to sign the easement.

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding a 28E agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids to assist with funding a county-wide trail plan and authorize the Director to sign the agreement. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed a 28E agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids to assist with funding a county-wide trail plan.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve the 28E agreement with the City and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

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

11. **Discuss and decide regarding seal coating Buffalo Creek Park roadway as part of the park renovation project and authorize the Director to sign the contract. (Goemaat)**

Doscher reviewed a request to seal coat Buffalo Creek Park roadway as part of the park renovation project.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

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

12. **Discuss preliminary Conservation Board FY25 budget. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed a preliminary FY25 budget draft with the Board.

No motion was made.

13. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-26 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) program for the Paralta Road to Springville Road section of the Grant Wood Trail, Project #16-20A. (Doscher)**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2023-26 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) program for the Paralta Road to Springville Road section of the Grant Wood Trail, Project #16-20A.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To authorize Resolution #2023-26 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

14. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-27 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance for the Covington to Cedar River section of the Morgan Creek Trail, Project #11-20A. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-27 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance for the Covington to Cedar River section of the Morgan Creek Trail, Project #11-20A.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To authorize Resolution #2023-27 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

15. **Discuss and decide regarding bids received and awarding a contract for derecho cleanup at Wanatee Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed bids received for derecho cleanup at Wanatee Park. Low bid received was \$24,750.00 from Hunter Quality Contracting, LLC.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the low bid from Hunter Quality Contracting, LLC and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

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

16. **Discuss and decide regarding bids received and awarding a contract for savanna restoration at Matsell Bridge Natural Area and authorize the Director to sign the contract. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed bids received for savanna restoration at Matsell Bridge Natural Area. Low bid received was J Pettiecord Inc. for \$28,000.00.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve the low bid from J Pettiecord Inc. and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Ryan Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 1. Campground closure – Goemaat updated the Board on 2023 campground closure timelines.

VI. Public comment

None.

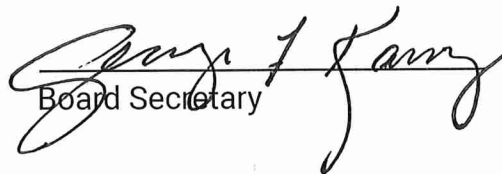
VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m. Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary