

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **November 27, 2023**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

George Kanz, Brent Oleson, Kendal Hausmann, Steve Emerson, Cindy Burke
Members Oleson and Burke joined the meeting by phone.
Kanz was appointed acting secretary.

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Rich Patterson

I. Call To Order

Oleson called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

II. Public Comment

Rich Patterson commented on the value of public natural areas for human health and times of reflection during loss.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the October 23, 2023 meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2024-5.
Claims and Transfer list #2024-5 involving claim #5-523 through #4-645.
3. Receive and place on file the October 2023 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the October 2023 activity report.

5. Acceptance of gifts.
 1. Gift #16-2024 – Donation of four framed wildlife photos from Larry Gilds.
 2. Gift #17-2024 – Monetary donation (\$225,100) from the Rae Jeanne Kilberger Foundation for development of the Bird Preserve.
6. Capital Improvement Program updates

IV. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the consent agenda.

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

2. **Discuss and decide on resolution # 2023-28, State Fish Habitat grant application for fish habitat improvement (phase 4) in the Riverside area in Pinicon Ridge Park. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed resolution #2023-28, authorizing staff to submit a State Fish Habitat grant application for fish habitat improvement (phase 4) in the Riverside area in Pinicon Ridge Park.

Motion by Burke, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2023-28 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

3. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-29 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Set Aside Program for planning and design of the Morgan Creek Trail bridge over the Cedar River, Project #5-19. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed resolution #2023-29, authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Set Aside Program for planning and design of the Morgan Creek Trail bridge over the Cedar River. Project #5-19.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2023-29 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

4. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-30 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance through the State Transportation Block Grant program for construction of phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail, Project #11-20A. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed resolution #2023-30 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance through the State Transportation Block Grant program for construction of phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail. Project #11-20A.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-30 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

5. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-31 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for construction of phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail, Project #11-20A. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-31 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for construction of phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail. Project #11-20A.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-31 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

6. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-32 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Set Aside Program for construction of phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail, Project #11-20A. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-32 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Set Aside Program for construction of phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail. Project #11-20A.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-32 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

7. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-33 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for planning and design of the Morgan Creek Trail bridge over the Cedar River, Project #5-19. (R. Burke)**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-33 authorizing staff to submit an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation requesting funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for planning and design of the Morgan Creek Trail bridge over the Cedar River. Project #5-19.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2023-33 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding a proposal from Shive Hattery Architecture and Engineering for bidding and construction services for the Pinicon Ridge Park campground expansion and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project 29-21. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed a proposal from Shive Hattery Architecture and Engineering for bidding and construction services for the Pinicon Ridge Park campground expansion, Project 29-21.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding the Conservation Board FY25 budget and authorizing staff to submit the budget to Linn County Budget and Finance. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed the Conservation Board FY25 budget. Kanz asked about the bridge in Wanatee Park. Goemaat noted the bridge inspection report indicated a 5-10 year timeline for replacement of this bridge.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize staff to submit the FY 25 budget as presented.

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding Conservation Board legislative priorities for the 2024 Iowa Legislative session. (Oleson/Goemaat)**

Goemaat and the Board discussed legislative priorities for the 2024 Iowa Legislative session. Oleson noted discussion with Linn County lobbyists would be beneficial regarding retention of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and keeping it out of legislative efforts to pass IWILL. Burke asked about Farm Bureau support for IWILL. Oleson noted the possibility of registering as an independent lobbyist should the ICCS Association register support for a bill that would include changes to LOST funding.

No motion was made.

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Ryan Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 1. Mountain Bike Trail and Skills Area – Wanatee Park - Doscher updated the Board on a concept for a future mountain bike trail at Pinicon Ridge Park and skills practice area at Wanatee Park.
 2. Linn County Road Department shop/property – Goemaat updated the Board on potential acquisition and use of the Secondary Roads property next to Morgan Creek Park. Oleson indicated interest in visiting the shop site with staff.

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VI. Public comment

None.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m. Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary

Board Secretary