LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **January 22, 2024,** at Wickiup Hill Learning Center 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Steve Emerson, Ashley Whittlesey

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
Tim Mroch, Snyder Engineers

I. Call To Order
Emerson called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.
The oath of office was administered to Ashley Whittlesey.

II. Public Comment
None.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the December 18, 2023 meeting.

2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2024-7.
Claims and Transfer list #2024-7 involving claim #7-749 through #7-878.

3. Receive and place on file the December 2023 financial/budget report.

4. Receive and place on file the December 2023 activity report.

5. Acceptance of gifts.
   1. Gift #21-2024 – Monetary donation ($2,500) from Cedar Sports Club to assist with the purchase of Bird Preserve addition.
   2. Gift #22-2024 – Monetary donation ($7,500) from Whitetail Unlimited to assist with the purchase of Bird Preserve addition.
   3. Gift #23-2024 – Monetary donation ($100) from Mary Kolb in memory of Paul Farris for support of the Wickiup Hill education program.
   4. Gift #24-2024 – Monetary donation ($100) from Steven Earll to assist with managing natural areas.
   5. Gift #25-2024 – Monetary donation ($750) from David Hillman to assist with funding the South San Juan Wilderness Trek.
   6. Gift #26-2024 – Monetary donation ($200) from Donald Hoak in memory of William Stewig.

6. Approve 60-day lease of an extended reach excavator for use at Pinicon Ridge Park.

7. Equipment purchase FY24

8. 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: none

2. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for installing an underpass of Lakeside Drive on the Dows Maniti Trail, Project #6-19A. (Doscher)**

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for installing an underpass of Lakeside Drive on the Dows Maniti Trail, Project #6-19A. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hausmann

To close the public hearing.

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

3. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2024-1, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for installing an underpass of Lakeside Drive on the Dows Maniti Trail, Project #6-19A. (Doscher)**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2024-1, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for installing an underpass of Lakeside Drive on the Dows Maniti Trail, Project #6-19A.

Motion by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2024-1, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for installing an underpass of Lakeside Drive on the Dows Maniti Trail, Project #6-19A.

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

4. **Discuss and decide on adopting Resolution #2024-2, amendment #41 to the fees and charges, establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2024 recreation season. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2024-2, amendment #41 to the fees and charges, establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2024 recreation season.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2024-2, amendment #41 to the fees and charges, establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2024 recreation season.

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

5. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2024-3 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for site grading for the Morgan Creek Park lodge, Project #10-22. (Burke)**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2024-3 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for site grading for the Morgan Creek Park lodge, Project #10-22.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2024-3 setting date and time for the public hearing.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding updating Board policy 4-7 Peace Officers – Designation and Certification. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed an update to Board policy 4-7 Peace Officers – Designation and Certification.

Motion by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve the update to Board policy 4-7 Peace Officers – Designation and Certification as presented for immediate implementation with readings waived.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding the Conservation Board's Annual Agenda. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat and the Board reviewed the draft annual agenda. Oleson confirmed the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors was planned for the August meeting.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve the Conservation Board's annual agenda as presented.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding the calendar year 2023 annual report and authorizing distribution. (Schlader)**

Schlader reviewed the calendar year 2023 annual report.

Motion by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve the calendar year 2023 annual report as presented and authorize publication.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding possible acquisition of Linn County Roads Morgan Creek shop property. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed a possible acquisition of Linn County Roads Morgan Creek shop property along with staff recommendation to decline the acquisition due to significant cost to demolish and repurpose the site for Conservation needs.

Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

To decline acquisition of the Morgan Creek Road shop.

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding an agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids allowing a test well to be drilled on county-owned property near the Cedar River and authorize the Director to sign the agreement. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed an agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids allowing a test well to be drilled on county-owned property near the Cedar River.

Motion by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve the agreement pending final legal review and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

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

11. **Election of Officers for 2024 (Conservation Board)**
1. President **2. Vice-President** **3. Secretary**

Goemaat noted term dates for each member and Board policy parameters for choosing officers. Oleson nominated Emerson as President. Hausmann nominated Oleson as Vice president and member Kanz as Secretary.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hausmann

Motion to elect Steve Emerson as Board President, Brent Oleson as Board Vice-President and George Kanz as Board Secretary for calendar year 2024.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Ryan Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.

2. Updates:
    1. Goemaat updated the Board on weather-related closures and a request to Board of Supervisors to exempt conservation for BOS related weather closures.
    2. Goemaat updated the Board on a needed RPA grant application edit for additional funding that will be brought as an item to the February meeting.
    3. Goemaat updated the Board on FY25 budget discussions and possible cuts to the capital projects Reserve budget. Oleson suggested communicating projects that would not have been accomplished with diminished Reserve budget to communicate awareness of future impacts should the fund be reduced.
    4. Goemaat updated the Board on a Marion sanitary sewer project in Wanatee Park.

VI. Public comment

None.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary