

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **May 20, 2024**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Steve Emerson

Board Members Absent

Ashley Whittlesey, Brent Oleson

Staff Present

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

Others Present

I. Call To Order

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

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the April 22, 2024 meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2024-11.
Claims and Transfer list #2024-11 involving claim #11-1187 through #11-1289.
3. Receive and place on file the April 2024 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the April 2024 activity report.
5. Acceptance of gifts – no gifts this month.
6. Authorize staff to order playground equipment and surfacing for the Pinicon Ridge Park campground expansion, Project #29-21.
7. 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: Whittlesey, Oleson

2. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated cost for installing new siding and window replacement at Prairie Oak Lodge in Wanatee Park, Project #13-24. (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 installing new siding and window replacement at Prairie Oak Lodge in Wanatee Park, Project #13-24. 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: Whittlesey, Oleson

3. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2024-10, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for installing new siding and window replacement at Prairie Oak Lodge in Wanatee Park, Project #13-24. (Burke)**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2024-10 approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for installing new siding and window replacement at Prairie Oak Lodge in Wanatee Park, Project #13-24.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2024-10.

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

4. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of a mountain bike trail at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #9-24. (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 construction of a mountain bike trail at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #9-24. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To close the public hearing.

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

5. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2024-11 approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the mountain bike trail at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #9-24. (Doscher)**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2024-11 approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the mountain bike trail at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #9-24.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2024-11.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for construction of a mountain bike trail at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract. (Doscher)**

Doscher reviewed the mountain bike trail at Pinicon Ridge Park contract. The low bid received was \$317,430.00 from Backyard Trails.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the low bid by Backyard Trails and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding a recreational trail easement contract with the Judith Baird Trust for a portion of the Dows Maniti Trail. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed an easement with the Judith Baird Trust for a portion of the Dows Maniti Trail.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the easement with the Judith Baird Trust for a portion of the Dows Maniti Trail and authorize the Board President to sign the easement.

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

8. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2024-12 authorizing staff to submit an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) grant proposal for design of the Cedar River trail bridge, Project #16-20. (Burke)**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2024-12 authorizing staff to submit an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) grant proposal for design of the Cedar River trail bridge, Project #16-20. Goemaat commented on competitive nature of the grant.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve resolution #2024-12 authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2024-13 regarding designating the north unit of Wickiup Hill Natural Area as bow hunting only for method of take for deer. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2024-13 regarding designating the north unit of Wickiup Hill Natural Area as bow hunting only for method of take for deer. Emerson asked about method of take options during shotgun deer season.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve resolution #2024-13 designating the north unit of Wickiup Hill Natural Area as bow hunting only for method of take for deer.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 1. Goemaat updated the Board on the Buffalo Creek Park reopening event Friday, May 17. Kanz noted support voiced from the Board of Supervisors.
 2. Goemaat suggested an August or September joint board meeting with the Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors.
 3. Goemaat noted the wolf exhibit at Wickup Hill.

VI. Public comment

None.

VII. Closed Session

The Conservation Board went into closed session to discuss the acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with Section 21.5 (1)(j) of the Iowa Code.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To go into closed session at 12:13 PM for the purpose of discussing acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with section 21.5(l)(j) Code of Iowa.

VOTE: aye: Hausmann
 aye: Kanz
 aye: Emerson
 nay: none
 absent: Whittlesey, Oleson

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To go out of closed session at 12:25 PM.

VOTE: aye: Hausmann
 aye: Kanz
 aye: Emerson
 nay: none
 absent: Whittlesey, Oleson

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.



SEAL

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Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Board Secretary, is written over a horizontal line.

Board Secretary