LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JULY 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 **July 22, 2024,** at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
George Kanz, Steve Emerson, Ashley Whittlesey

Board Members Absent
Brent Oleson, Kendal Hausmann

Staff Present
Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Ryan Schlader Communications; Randy Burke, Planner

Others Present
John Hanson

I. Call To Order

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

II. Public Comment

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the June 22, 2024, meeting.

2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2025-1. Claims and Transfer list #2025-1 involving claim #12-1485 through #1-107.

3. Receive and place on file the June 2024 financial/budget report.

4. Receive and place on file the June 2024 activity report.

5. Acceptance of gifts.
    1. Gift #1-2025 – Donation of nature books for use in the conservation education program.

2. Gift #2-2025 – Monetary donation ($25) from Ryan and Julie Schlader in memory of Pat Layton for improvements to the Morgan Creek Park butterfly garden.

6. Capital Improvement Program updates.

IV. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

To approve the consent agenda.

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

2. **Presentation by John Hanson regarding Ursus Iowa a new 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to black bears in Iowa. (Hanson)**

John Hanson presented regarding Ursus Iowa, a new 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to black bears in Iowa. Kanz asked if a proposed county level ordinance would impact the process of the black bear being designated in Iowa. Emerson asked if the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) would have jurisdiction. Hanson confirmed the Iowa legislature would have to pass legislation, which would then make it an IDNR management issue on a statewide level. Goemaat noted the possibility for the Board to close Conservation areas to the taking of black bears, but the BOS would likely have to oversee an ordinance process for the entire county.

No motion was made.

3. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2024-15, authorizing staff to submit an application for funding assistance from the State Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to acquire 50 acres of land adjacent to Pinicon Ridge Park. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2024-15, authorizing staff to submit an application for funding assistance from the State Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to acquire 50 acres of land adjacent to Pinicon Ridge Park.

Motion by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

To approve Resolution #2024-15 and authorize staff to submit the application.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a funding agreement with IDOT for the Morgan Creek Trail and authorizing the Director to sign the agreement, Project #8-19. (Burke)**

Burke reviewed a funding agreement with IDOT for the Morgan Creek Trail.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve a funding agreement with IDOT and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

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

5. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for tree planting at Wanatee Park for a bat mitigation project with the IDOT. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed a contract for tree planting at Wanatee Park for a bat mitigation project with the IDOT. The low bid received was by Hulett Enterprises, LLC for $65,000.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve the low bid and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding approving an increase in the reimbursement allowance for employee safety boot purchases. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed approving an increase in the reimbursement allowance for employee safety boot purchases.

Motion by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

To approve an increase in the reimbursement policy and approve the MOU with HR and the Union.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

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

2. Updates:

    1. Rector updated the Board on the Wickiup Outreach program regarding Access for All.
    2. The Board delayed the update on the status of bond park improvement projects to a future meeting.

VI. Public comment

None.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary