

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt (via phone), Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Zumbach. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Vice Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve minutes of August 26, 2024 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – Morgan Creek Trail from 42nd St. to Cedar River (Oct.-Nov. bid); Mountain Bike Trails (anticipate it being very popular); Grant Wood Trail – Paralta Rd. to Springville Rd. (fall bid); Cedar Valley Trail paving northern section (40 year celebration scheduled); Pinicon Ridge Park campground expansion and cabins (anticipate fall completion); Pinicon Ridge boat concession dredging (continue to removal spoils); Dows Maniti Trail underpass at Lakeside Rd.(large box culvert underpass); Morgan Creek Lodge grading completed (utilities installation soon); seasonal employees returning to college (mowing will be a challenge); hiring an assistant ranger due to a retirement; Whitetails will highlight the bird preserve; and annual volunteer recognition in a couple weeks.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Dept. Dir., introduced Cindy Fiester and Christie Rossi who presented the Social Determinants of Health & Community Care Coordination program report.

Jon Gallagher, Soil & Water Conservation – Indian Creek Soil Health Partnership (funding of Soil Health Coordinator position will go through remainder of 2024); water quality initiative cover crop is ongoing; working with farmers with regard to cover crop this fall (eligibility sign-up has changed); still working through Derecho funding activities (four rain gardens located in Walker at Habitat for Humanity homes); Center Point apartment application for a retention cell; Weed Commissioner activities – different species of concern have been noted; NE corner Weed Commissioners met; noxious weed within the city of Marion and working to get it under control.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Affairs Dir. – Budget on target; services to veterans; claims, pensions and other services; community outreach; Five Seasons Stand Down is next month; VA launched a website to protect veterans and their families from fraud and scams; PACT Act statistics (2022-2024); attending Suicide Prevention Summit; and 2023 Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures Report (the number of veterans has decreased by 4,718).

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. – budget status; one staff vacancy; KPI's; CrowdStrike statistics; Cybersecurity continues to be a focus for their office and phone project is kicking off.

Jason Siebrecht, GIS Mgr. – highlighted PowerPoint for two staff members who received ISAC Excellence in Action Award.

Discussion continued regarding ongoing phone issues (calls not coming in or not going through). Seems to be a combination of the provider and hardware. Will have a new vendor with the new phone system.

Supervisor Zumbach asked about IT's involvement with the CEC (audio/video projects) at the Public Service Center and Harris Building. Lowder explained that the project was done by a 3rd party vendor and noted that there are some issues that the vendor is coming back to rectify. IT will interface with the vendor's involved to get functional and operational.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir. – mission statement and KPI's; ARPA projects including mobile resiliency trailers, sustainability office remodel; stormwater retention projects for priority properties in Linn County will not move forward; EPA Government to Government grant for energy audits in rental units was determined not to be a feasible proposition; EPA's climate pollution reduction grant program through ECICOG to develop a comprehensive climate action plan; Green Iowa AmeriCorps 23/24 members finished up their term August 16th; Sustainability Dept. and Facilities received training on buildings and starting to review data tracking (energy efficiencies); built a collaboration with ECICOG to apply for a Collaborative Brownfields grant; Iowa DNR has a new draft flood model they have rolled out; partner outreach (continue to build partnerships with Linn County cities); Sustainability website has been updated and working with Communications team to create a brochure. There is a need for the Sustainability Dept. to be the "bridge" between various departments.

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Adjournment at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors