



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **September 23, 2024**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Steve Emerson, George Kanz, Brent Oleson, Kendal Hausmann

Board Members Absent

Ashley Whittlesey

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Ryan Schlader Communications; Randy Burke, Planner; Ted Doscher, Planner; Jason Baumann, District Park Ranger

Others Present

Greg Frohner, Chris Kardos, Tom Weber, John Leeson

I. Call To Order

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

II. Public Comment

Greg Frohner, Chris Kardos, Tom Weber, John Leeson with the Cedar Amateur Astronomers presented a certificate of appreciation to Jason Baumann for his outstanding efforts of support to the use of the facility.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the August 26, 2024, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2025-3. Claims and Transfer list #2025-3 involving claim #3-239 through #3-415.
3. Receive and place on file the August 2024 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the August 2024 activity report.
5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #15-2025 – Monetary donations (\$50) from Suzi Guider for support of Wickiup Hill education program.
 2. Gift #16-2025 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Julie Cline in memory of William Ortmayer for use at Morgan Creek Park.
6. 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: Whittlesey

2. **Public hearing regarding a 10-year lease to Rex Miller for agricultural land at the Linn County Learning Farm. (Gibbins)**

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa Law regarding the proposed 10-year lease to Rex Miller for agricultural land at the Linn County Learning Farm. 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

3. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2024-17 approving a 10-year lease for the Linn County Learning Farm agricultural land. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2024-17, approving a 10-year lease for the Linn County Learning Farm agricultural land.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2024-17.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a 10-year lease to Rex Miller for the Linn County Learning Farm agricultural land and authorize the Director to sign the lease. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed a 10-year lease to Rex Miller for the Linn County Learning Farm agricultural land.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the lease and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

5. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a land donation agreement and acceptance of property for the Stark Settlement Natural Area from the Robert Stark estate and authorize the Director to sign the agreement. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed an agreement and acceptance of property donation for the Stark Settlement Natural Area from the Robert Stark estate.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve the land donation agreement and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2024-18 approving Fees and Charges amendment #43 naming new campgrounds and cabins and establishing rental fees. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2024-18 approving Fees and Charges amendment #43 naming new campgrounds and cabins and establishing rental fees. Kanz noted approval for a weekly rate option on the cabins.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2024-18.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2024-19 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trail/Transportation Alternative Set-aside (TASA) grant application for planning and design of the Cedar River trail bridge. (Burke)**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2024-19 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trail/Transportation Alternative Set-aside (TASA) grant application for planning and design of the Cedar River trail bridge.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2024-19 and authorize staff to submit the grant.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to submit a Water Quality Initiative Grant through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for a water quality wetland at Morgan Creek Park. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed a water quality grant opportunity for a wetland project at Morgan Creek Park through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Oleson

To authorize staff to submit and sign a Water Quality Initiative Grant.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding approving an agreement with Mike and Lynn Bergman accepting a two-acre land donation for the purpose of developing a river access near Waubeek and authorizing the Director to sign the agreement. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed an agreement with Mike and Lynn Bergman accepting a two-acre land donation for the purpose of developing a river access near Waubeek.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hausmann

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

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding approving two project design amendments with Design Dynamics for additional work for the Morgan Creek Park lodge and authorize the Director to sign the amendments. (Burke)**

Burke reviewed two project design amendments with Design Dynamics for additional work for the Morgan Creek Park lodge.

Motion by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve the design amendments and authorize the Director to sign the amendments.

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

11. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a forestry clearing project for Wanatee Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed quotes received for a forestry clearing project for Wanatee Park.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hausmann

To approve the low quote by Bill Miller Logging, Inc for \$23,928 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

12. **Discuss and decide regarding a hold harmless agreement with Next Era Energy for the donation of a track chair and authorize the Director to sign the agreement. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed a hold harmless agreement with Next Era Energy for the donation of a track chair. Goemaat noted additions to the chair would allow for a wide range of use in the system.

Motion by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve the agreement and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 1. Goemaat reported on a Habitat Award received from the Izaak Walton League of America.
 2. Goemaat reviewed a plan for Central City to design a pedestrian Bridge over the Wapsipinicon River at the Pinicon Ridge Park Dam.
 3. Goemaat reviewed the status of water quality bond projects

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 Oleson, second by Kanz

To go into closed session at 12:45 PM for the purpose of discussing acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with section 21.5(l)(j) Code of Iowa.

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

MOTION by Kanz, second by

To go out of closed session at 12:54 PM.

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

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary