

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024 1:30 P.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Zumbach. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir.; Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir.; and Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir.; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Conservation Dir.; and George Kanz, Conservation Board member.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget for Conservation.

Conservation – Jindrich stated that the budget is under guidelines by \$7,839 due to operational decreases in trail maintenance costs to offset the increase in salaries and benefits for the upgrade to the National Resources Vegetation Management Specialist position.

Goemaat and Gibbins gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation of their budget and discussed Key Performance Indicators. An offer was presented for an additional Assistant Park Ranger. Gibbins also explained the five vehicle requests.

Supervisor Zumbach thanked Goemaat and Gibbins for all they do for the county. He shared some wisdom regarding free money not always being "free". Conservation receives a lot of free money to build things but running those things comes out of the general fund budget. As Conservation grows more and more, there should be consideration for how they operate as it won't be as easy to just amend the budget towards the end of the year. Zumbach added that it has been a pleasure working with Conservation.

Supervisor Rogers stated that the level of work Conservation does, and the function of county government are an amenity that people get to enjoy. The video that was played regarding the Cedar Valley Nature Trail encapsulates the efforts that can take decades to complete. Conservation creates connections over time that allows projects to really flourish for the community's benefit. It is always a pleasure to utilize the amenities offered to Linn County.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked them for the areas where Conservation looks to be accessible for all the people of Linn County including the boat ramp and dam projects. Also, bringing school kids out from small towns into the larger cities as this has a huge ripple effect for those that live, work and raise families in Linn County. Their leadership in Linn County both internally and externally, is very much appreciated.

Jindrich added that Conservation is the first budget with the adjusted health insurance rates from 10% to 11%.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve the Conservation preliminary FY26 appropriations in the amount of \$15,054,022 and revenues of \$11,950,300.

Adjournment at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Hoy, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors