LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **January 27, 2025,** at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
Paul Morf, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Ashley Whittlesey, Brent Oleson

Board Members Absent
None.

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

Others Present
None.

I. Call To Order

Oleson called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.
Oleson administered the oath of office to Paul Morf

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the December 16, 2024, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2025-7.
   Claims and Transfer list #2025-7 involving claim #7-860 through #7-908 .
3. Receive and place on file the December 2024 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the December 2024 activity report.
5. Acceptance of gifts.
   1. Gift #21-2025 – Monetary donation ($50) from David & Diane Norton for undesignated conservation support in memory of Bob Wolverton.
   2. Gift #22-2025 – Monetary donation ($100) from Judy Koons for undesignated conservation support.
   3. Gift #23-2025 – Monetary donation ($125) from Steven Earll for natural area management.

4. Gift #24-2025 – Monetary donation ($250) from David Hillman for support of the education program at Wickiup Hill.
5. Gift #25-2025 – Monetary donation ($40) from Mike and Gretchen Sullivan for undesignated conservation support in memory of Bob Wolverton.

6. Approve a 60-day lease of an extended reach excavator for use at Pinicon Ridge Park
7. Capital Improvement Program updates.
8. Approve a one-year agricultural lease for the Stark Settlement Natural Area.

IV. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve the consent agenda.

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

2. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2025-1 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Morgan Creek Lodge, Project #10-22.**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2025-1 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Morgan Creek Lodge, Project #10-22. Member Kanz noted public comment indicating the bid set was very thorough. Burke noted a high level of interest based on the number of plan holders.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2025-1 and set the time and date for the public hearing.

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

3. **Discuss and decide regarding a utility easement across Cedar Valley Nature Trail in Urbana, Iowa, and authorize the Board Chair and Secretary to sign the agreement.**

   Gibbins reviewed a utility easement across Cedar Valley Nature Trail in Urbana, Iowa.

   Motion by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

   To approve the agreement and authorize the Board Chair and Secretary to sign the agreement.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding a construction phase services agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for the Morgan Creek Trail and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.**

   Burke reviewed a construction phase services agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for the Morgan Creek Trail.

   Motion by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

   To approve and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.

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

5. **Discuss and decide on a change order with LL Pelling for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail hard surfacing project and authorize the Director to sign the change order, Project #5-21C.**

   Burke reviewed a change order with LL Pelling for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail hard surfacing project.

   Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

   To approve and authorize the Director to sign the change order, Project #5-21C.
   Vote: aye: all present
   nay: none
   absent: none

6. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-2 designating the Bird Preserve as a wildlife refuge closed to hunting.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2025-2 designating the Bird Preserve as a wildlife refuge closed to hunting. Morf asked if there were any future options to address overpopulation of deer without a regular season. Gibbins noted that a special hunt could be considered with the IDNR such as the special hunt at Wanatee Park.

Motion by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

To approve Resolution #2025-2 and designate the Bird Preserve as a wildlife refuge.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding the calendar year 2024 annual report and authorizing distribution.**

Schlader reviewed the calendar year 2024 annual report.

Motion by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize staff to distribute the 2024 annual report.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding the Conservation Board's 2025 Annual Agenda.**

Goemaat reviewed the Conservation Board's 2025 Annual Agenda.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve the Conservation Board's 2025 Annual Agenda.

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

9. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2025-3, amendment #44 to the fees and charges, establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2025 recreation season.**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2025-3, amendment #44 to the fees and charges, establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2025 recreation season.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-3 establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2025 recreation season.

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

10. **Election of Officers for 2025 (Conservation Board)**
1. President **2. Vice-President** **3. Secretary**

Goemaat noted term dates for each member and Board policy parameters for choosing officers.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

Motion to elect Oleson as Board President, Kanz as Board Vice-President and Hausmann as Board Secretary for calendar year 2025.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
   a. Gibbins updated the Board on the Bergman land gift for JG Sigmund addition/Waubeek River Access.
   b. Oleson noted the benefits of land management and acquisition strategies on a regional view for considerations such as certain trail and watershed corridors.
   c. Kanz reported on his attendance at the annual Conservation budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors and his appreciation for the Board of Supervisors' level of engagement and support during the presentation.

VI. Public comment

None.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary