LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **February 24, 2025,** at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Ashley Whittlesey
Whittlesey joined the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Board Members Absent
Paul Morf

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

Others Present
Chris Wiese.

I. Call To Order
Oleson called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

II. Public Comment
None.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the January 27, 2024, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2025-8. Claims and Transfer list #2025-8 involving claim #8-909 through #8-1038 .
3. Receive and place on file the January 2024 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the January 2024 activity report.
5. Acceptance of gifts.
    1. none
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: Morf, Whittlesey

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To add R11 to the agenda as an emergency item.

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

2. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Morgan Creek Lodge, Project #10-22.

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa Law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Morgan Creek Lodge, Project #10-22. 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: Morf, Whittlesey

3. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-4, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for construction of the Morgan Creek Park lodge, Project #10-22.**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2025-4, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for construction of the Morgan Creek Park lodge, Project #10-22.

Whittlesey joined the meeting at 12:04

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-4.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-5 awarding a contract for construction of the lodge at Morgan Creek Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract.**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2025-5 awarding a contract for construction of the lodge at Morgan Creek Park. Goemaat reviewed bid number irregularities. Oleson asked about low bidder experience in Linn County. Burke and Goemaat confirmed low bidder experience with local projects. Kanz noted comments received regarding project experience of the low bidder.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2025-5 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

5. **Discuss and decide regarding a design services amendment agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for the Morgan Creek Trail and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.**

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

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

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

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-6 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike gravity zone, Project #09-24A.**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-6 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike gravity zone, Project #09-24A.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2025-6 and set the time and date for the public hearing.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding a $61,943 Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fish Habitat grant contract at Pinicon Ridge Park for phase 5 dredging and authorize the Director to sign the contract.**

Gibbins reviewed a $61,943 Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fish Habitat grant contract at Pinicon Ridge Park for phase 5 dredging.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

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

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-7 awarding a contract for tree planting and maintenance as part of the Community Development Block Grant program and authorize the Director to sign the contract with the selected bidder.**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2025-7 awarding a contract for tree planting and maintenance as part of the Community Development Block Grant program.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2025-7 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding Prairie Partners Cost Share agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to plant prairie at the Stark Settlement Natural Area and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.**

Gibbins reviewed the Prairie Partners Cost Share agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to plant prairie at the Stark Settlement Natural Area. Oleson verified the commitment to a future potential veteran's home site option would still be allowed with this agreement. Gibbins confirmed this agreement would not impede that option.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

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

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a Federal Aid Agreement for trail funding with the Iowa Department of Transportation for the Morgan Creek Trail from Covington Road to the Cedar River and authorize staff to sign the agreement.**

Burke reviewed a Federal Aid Agreement for trail funding with the Iowa Department of Transportation for the Morgan Creek Trail from Covington Road to the Cedar River. Goemaat noted potential funding freezes by the federal government regarding IDOT funding sources for this project, but current understanding is that funding is stable. Burke confirmed a concept project timeline.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

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

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

11. Agenda addition – Change order for additional quantities – Project 05-21C.

Goemaat reviewed a change order for project 05-21C for a delayed invoice from LL Pelling Requesting an additional $30,443.70. Staff was able to discuss the invoice with the Engineer and then consulted with the County Attorney's office. Because a delay in action until the next Board meeting could interrupt final project closeout and federal grant reimbursement, the Linn County Attorney's Office advised this item could be added as an emergency item to the already published agenda so the Board could act on the proposed change order.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the change order and authorize staff to sign the change order and process payment once the invoiced amount is verified.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
   a. Goemaat reported on Tower Terrace Road plans regarding the Cedar Valley Trail.
   b. Goemaat gave an update on the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

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 12:40 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: Whittlesey
nay: none
absent: Morf

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To go out of closed session at 12:43 PM.

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

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary