

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, MARCH 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 **MARCH 24, 2025**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Paul Morf

Board Members Absent

Ashley Whittlesey

Staff Present

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

Others Present

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 February 24, 2025, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2025-8.
Claims and Transfer list #2025-9 involving claim #9-1039 through #9-1148 .
3. Receive and place on file the February 2025 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the February 2025 activity report.
5. Acceptance of gifts.
 1. Gift #26-2025 – Monetary donation (\$300) from Jacqueline Bannister for bird seed for feeders at Wickiup Hill.
 2. Gift #27-2025 – Donation of two hiking Osprey Poco child carriers from Ashley Hart.
 3. Gift #28-2025 – Monetary donation (\$1,000) from Connie Wright in memory of Steve Wright for maintenance of the Savanna Trail at Wickiup Hill.
 4. Gift #29-2025 – Donation of five hunting blinds from Scheels for use in the Field to Fork program.

5. Gift #30-2025 – Monetary donation (\$20) from Karen Lively Antons for bird seed for feeders at Wickiup Hill.
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 the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike park, Project #09-24A.**

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 Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike park, Project #09-24A. 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 on Resolution #2025-8, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for**

construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike park, Project #09-24A.

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-8, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike park, Project #09-24A.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-8.

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

4. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2025- 9 awarding a contract for construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike park and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #09-24A.**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-9 awarding a contract for construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park mountain bike park. Morf asked about how much grading would be required. Doscher reviewed the low-impact construction process typical for mountain bike trail construction. Kanz asked if vehicle access would be maintained to the mountain bike park due to its location. Doscher confirmed access would be available.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2025-9 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

5. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-10 amending park rules requiring campers to maintain an orderly campsite.**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2025-10 amending park rules requiring campers to maintain an orderly campsite. Oleson asked how camper licensure would be inspected. Goemaat noted the rule would require campers to be licensed for road travel for camping registration to be completed with park staff.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-10.

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

6. **Discuss and decide on Resolution 2025-11 authorizing placement of stop signs at various park road and trail intersection locations.**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2025-11 authorizing placement of stop signs at various park road and trail intersection locations.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-11.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-12 awarding a contract for repairs to the Center Point Depot, Project #28-21.**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-12 awarding a contract for repairs to the Center Point Depot, Project #28-21.

Motion by Kanz, second by Morf

To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-12.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a \$177,625 Water Quality Initiative Grant contract with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for a wetland at Morgan Creek Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract.**

Gibbins reviewed a \$177,625 Water Quality Initiative Grant contract with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for a wetland at Morgan Creek Park.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for \$177,625.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding a professional services contract amendment with WHKS & Company for completing design and bidding services for the Morgan Creek Park wetland and authorize the Director to sign the amendment, Project #06-25.**

Gibbins reviewed a professional services contract amendment with WHKS & Company for completing design and bidding services for the Morgan Creek Park wetland, Project #06-25.

Motion by Kanz, second by Morf

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

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding a professional services contract amendment with Design Dynamics for construction administration for the Morgan Creek Park lodge and authorize the Director to sign the amendment, Project #10-22.**

Burke reviewed a professional services contract amendment with Design Dynamics for construction administration for the Morgan Creek Park lodge, Project #10-22.

Motion by Kanz, second by Morf

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

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:
 - a. Goemaat updated the Board concerning the PCI change order request, approved in February.
 - b. Goemaat reported on draft legislation related to land acquisition and the Outdoor Recreation Day at the Capitol. Oleson noted concerning legislation moving through the State Legislature that would exclude large counties from Iowa Economic Development funding opportunities.
 - c. The Board discussed a recent State Auditor report, regarding Johnson County Conservation.
 - d. Goemaat reported on an upcoming change order for the Prairie Oak Lodge project due to water damage found by the siding contractor.

VI. Public comment
None.

VII. Adjourn

Conservation Board Meeting Minutes
03/24/2025

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary