

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Meisheid (via phone), Vice Chairperson Running-Marquardt and Supervisor Scheetz. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Vice Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve minutes of July 21, 2025 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – working on code rewrites; looking forward to winter weather shelter, Willis Dady contract is November through March; ECI/DECAT budget meetings; Juvenile Detention security updates; Johnson County contracting 3 beds for FY26; Access Center passed site visit for SUD license; Child & Youth Development funds uncertain; East Central Region staffing update.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt complimented their assistance to homeless citizens.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – Morgan Creek Trail update, negotiating with new railroad company; Grant Wood Trail update; Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail update; Pinicon Ridge Park Campground expansion going well & receiving positive feedback; Morgan Creek Lodge Construction to begin in September 2025; Center Point Depot Renovation nearing completion; Morgan Creek Park Wetland to be bid on in Fall 2025; Cedar Rapids Community School District providing free lunches to children at Morgan Creek Park; Shade Shelter over Morgan Creek playground will be replaced in September.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt has received multiple comments over how proud citizens are of the Linn County Parks.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation – 40th anniversary year of Conservation Reserve Program; Received 4 applications for strip till incentive; aiming for 10,000 acres to allocate Water Quality Initiative (WQI) funds towards; working with Linn County Conservation regarding Learning Farm in Palo; reviewed work done during Indian Creek Soil Health Partnership that lasted from 2019 – 2024; Reviewed Oxbow Restoration project; continuing to collect stream samples; coordinating Oxbow Field Training Event with City of Cedar Rapids & State of Iowa; Weed Abatement Program has been pretty active this year.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Services Dir. – FY26 budget overview; have assisted with funerals & emergencies for local Veterans; served twice as many veterans during FY25 from FY22 (highest amount ever reached); Cedar Valley Veterans Network career networking event was well attended; Four staff attended National Conference (required to maintain national accreditation); Veteran of the Month has been advertised but no nominations have been received; offering to several American Legions to bring claims services to their posts; Jeff Schmidt and Trent Henkel were recently appointed to the Linn County Commission of Veteran Affairs.

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. – one open position; new intranet is now up and running; significant increase in Cyber Security advisories.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked the work that IT has been doing to make sure Linn County has kept up their quality.

Jason Siebrecht, GIS Mgr. – open position has been filled; received recent award from software vendor; software update to help collect data for Treasurer's Office; continuing to work closely with Public Health to digitize their clinic sampling forms; countywide imagery is done every other year, and metro imagery every year.

Supervisor Scheetz asked if there has been any comprehensive analysis to discover how Linn County can integrate AI into their processes and referred back to a recent AI presentation on July 15, 2025.

Adjournment at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
Amanda Brown, Deputy Auditor

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors