

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **July 28, 2025**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Ashley Whittlesey
Member Oleson joined the meeting by phone.

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

I. Call To Order

Kanz called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the June 23, 2025, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2026-1.
Claims and Transfer list #2026-1 involving claim #12-1513 through #1-137.
3. Receive and place on file the June 2025 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the June 2025 activity report.
5. Acceptance of Gifts
 1. Gift #44-2025 – Monetary donation (\$150) from the Harings, Tracy & Eric Smith and Ted & Linda Smith for Morgan Creek Park in memory of Jeff Gard.
6. Capital Improvement Program updates.

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: Morf

2. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2025-20 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 Park wetland, Project #6-25. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2025-20 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 Park wetland, Project #6-25.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2025-20 and set the time and date for the public hearing.

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

3. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for debris and footing removal and general site cleanup from the Pinicon Ridge Park storage**

building fire and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #18-25.

Burke reviewed bids received for debris and footing removal and general site cleanup from the Pinicon Ridge Park storage building fire, Project #18-25.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To reject the low bid as unresponsive and approve the second lowest bid from Abode and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

4. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2025-21 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for replacement of the Pinicon Ridge Park cold storage building, Project #18-25. (Burke)**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2025-21 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for replacement of the Pinicon Ridge Park cold storage building, Project #18-25.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve Resolution #2025-21 and set the time and date for the public hearing.

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

5. **Discuss school field trip fees for education programs. (Rector)**

Rector discussed eliminating field trip fees to improve accessibility to all. Kanz asked about revenue impact and Indian Creek Nature Center fee structures. Hausmann commented on support for the proposal due to recent budget cuts to school districts. Goemaat noted the proposal would be moved to the FY27 budget process.

No Motion was made.

6. **Discuss and decide regarding a dwelling unit rental agreement with Assistant Park Ranger Nicholas Haight for the Matsell Bridge Natural Area residence and authorize the Director to sign the lease. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed a dwelling unit rental agreement with Assistant Park Ranger Nicholas Haight for the Matsell Bridge Natural Area residence.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

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

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to purchase a flail mower for use in maintaining the mountain bike trails, Project #3-22A. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed the purchase of a flail mower for use in maintaining the mountain bike trails, Project #3-22A.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize staff to purchase a flail mower.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding approving an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for oxbow construction at the Linn Learning Farm and authorizing the Director to sign the agreement. (Gibbins)**

Gibbins reviewed an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for oxbow construction at the Linn Learning Farm.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

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

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding approving an easement with Interstate Power and Light to install underground utilities along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail parking in Hiawatha. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed an easement with Interstate Power and Light to install underground utilities along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail parking in Hiawatha.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Board to sign the easement.

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding law enforcement mutual response agreement with Linn County Sheriff's Office and authorize the Director to sign the agreement. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat reviewed a law enforcement mutual response agreement with Linn County Sheriff's Office. Kanz asked about delegated areas of response and equipment for Conservation law enforcement. Goemaat confirmed code limitations and current enforcement equipment.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

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

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

11. **Discuss severe weather preparedness and response. (Goemaat)**

Goemaat discussed Linn County's Severe Weather Policy for severe weather preparedness and response. Kanz noted changing weather patterns are increasing the importance of severe weather preparedness.

No Motion was made.

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:

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- a. Goemaat updated the Board concerning the canoe shuttle operation.
- b. Goemaat updated the Board concerning the aquifer vulnerability and contaminant plume mapping effort.
- c. Registration is now open for the ICCS Annual Conference, September 16-18, 2025, in Dickinson County. Registration is due August 15.

VI. Public comment
None.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary