LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **August 25, 2025,** at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Ashley Whittlesey, Paul Morf
Oleson joined the meeting by phone.

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
West Hausmann

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 July 28, 2025, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims and Transfer List # 2026-02.
3. Receive and place on file the July 2025 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the July 2025 activity report.
5. Acceptance of Gifts
    1. Gift #45-2025 – Monetary donation ($150) from Terri Janaszak for Buffalo Creek Park.
6. Capital Improvement Program updates.

IV. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

   Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

   To approve the consent agenda.

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

2. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Morgan Creek Park wetland, Project #6-25.**

   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 Park wetland, Project #6-25. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

   Motion by Hausmann, second by Morf

   To close the public hearing.

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

3. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-22, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for Morgan Creek Park wetland, Project #6-25.**

   Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-22, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for Morgan Creek Park wetland, Project #6-25.

   Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

   To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-22.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-23 awarding a contract for construction of the Morgan Creek Park wetland, Project #6-25 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-23 awarding a contract for construction of the Morgan Creek Park wetland, Project #6-25. Morf asked about low bidder experience. Doscher confirmed completion of previous projects for Conservation.

Motion by Morf, second by Whittlesey

To approve Resolution #2025-23 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

5. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for construction of the Pinicon Ridge Park cold storage building, Project #18-25.**

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 cold storage building, Project #18-25. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To close the public hearing.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-24, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Pinicon Ridge Park cold storage building, Project #16-25.**

Burke reviewed Resolution #2025-24, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Pinicon Ridge Park cold storage building, Project #16-25. Morf asked about project completion timing and equipment storage needs. Burke reviewed storage options for equipment prior to completion.

Motion by Morf, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize Resolution #2025-24.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract to install a stream crossing on the Woodpecker Hill Trail at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #17-24.**

Doscher reviewed bids received to install a stream crossing on the Woodpecker Hill Trail at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #17-24.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To award the contract to the low bid of $21,630.88 from Connoly Excavating and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for tree planting and maintenance as part of the Community Development Block Grant program and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #12-24.**

Gibbins reviewed bids received for tree planting and maintenance as part of the Community Development Block Grant program, Project #12-24.

Motion by Morf, second by Hausmann

To award the contract to the low bid of $54,227 from Absolute Group and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-25 approving and adopting the Cedar Rapids and Linn County Trails and Bikeways Plan.**

Burke reviewed the Cedar Rapids and Linn County Trails and Bikeways Plan.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Morf

To approve and adopt Resolution #2025-25.

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding suspending the sale of discount camping coupon booklets pending review of a potential new camping payment option.**

Goemaat reviewed suspending the sale of discount camping coupon booklets pending review of a potential new camping payment option. Morf asked about the reservation system option. Goemaat discussed benefits for pay on site options for some locations in addition to current reservation campsites.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Morf

To approve and authorize staff to suspend discount camping coupon sales.

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. Goemaat updated the board on camping issues related to persons in need of assistance. Oleson noted that Conservation rules are applied fairly by staff to all campers as general rules that must be followed.

VI. Public comment

None.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 PM.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary