

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 10:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve minutes of September 29, 2025 as printed.

Jennifer Dunn, Linn County Fair Assoc., gave a PowerPoint presentation to support their grant application to the fiscal year 2026 Linn County Legacy & Community Attraction Fund. She highlighted the new items to the fair in 2025, fair traditions and accomplishments. She appreciates the Board's support as the fair continues to grow.

Ann Schuster, 2nd Vice Pres. of the Association of Iowa Fairs, shared that fairs are a place for families to create memories that last for a lifetime and are a great thing for society. The Linn County fair has grown by leaps and bounds with their grounds and infrastructure.

Mark Troester, Clayton County Fair Board Pres., stated that he does a lot of fair touring and the Linn County fair within the last couple years has really improved. It is a great place for young children to learn. Fairs also bring people out of urban areas to see what is going on with agriculture.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates the presentation and feels that memories and data are important. She thanked those that traveled to the meeting today and is really proud of Linn County's fair as well as other county fairs. Running-Marquardt added that Deb Zumbach is an amazing representation at the district and state level. All the volunteers have a significant impact on everyone.

Supervisor Scheetz shared his appreciation as this was the 1st time he has heard the presentation, and is excited to learn more about the impact of the Linn County fair.

Chairperson Meisheid added that she is a yearly fairgoer and also expressed her appreciation for the presentation.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt discussed action related to the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to complete Water Resources and Water Balance Study. This is an important agenda item, and she asked that it be placed on today's agenda. The data center ordinance, natural gas power plant ordinance and the host community agreement are all three related to data centers and power and water that will be needed. She feels that the conversations should be transparent and take place in public. Linn County was approached by 2 data centers and Board members met with Google individually. They are also working with Duane Arnold on getting them back online through several different ways. A study and assessment needs to take place for water infrastructure. It is a critical time for this information before more development moves forward. Power is needed and it takes a lot of energy as well as water. She feels that they should take considerations into account and have an ordinance in place before the data centers are built. There are different systems to try to reduce the amount of water usage in data centers, like closed loop water systems, and then some using gray water from other facilities. The large amounts of water used by data centers for a typical six building complex could be, on average, between 12 and 14 million gallons of water a day. Resident water supplies are the priority now and long term. Water is a part of their crucial infrastructure. They want to take into consideration where data centers would be getting their water from and how much they would need. She has communicated with Cedar Rapids, and they are on board with this study. They are good partners in moving forward with the information from the study. They also very much care about the water availability of the residents here. They can support economic growth for their area and do exciting things. They can promote jobs and do it in a safe and fair way. The long-term community impact, especially with water and pollution, will have long-lasting impacts for their future generations.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin, stated that this is the first time the county is considering a data center, and the Board wants to make sure that all the things surrounding it are discussed in public. Google will send the funding contract for this RFP.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir., presented a PowerPoint highlighting surface water, groundwater, lowan surface and the Southern Iowa Drift Plain. The purpose of the Water Balance Study is to evaluate existing data, additional data collection, augment with new monitoring for baseline and real-time assessment and water balance analysis.

Chairperson Meisheid shared that they are very fortunate that Google has been a good partner and they are willing to pay for the study to make sure that their constituents are being looked after. They are looking to get them the information that they need to make informed decisions as a Board. They are doing their best to make sure they are looking out for everybody in Linn County as they move forward with this.

Supervisor Scheetz added that he was shocked that there is no statewide concept of water quantity. It would take 50 years to find out how much water there is in the aquifers in Iowa. They are thinking holistically and making sure they are being thoughtful about this.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve action related to the issuance of a Request for Proposals for a consultant to complete Water Resources and Water Balance Study.

Matteson presented a contract between Linn County and the University of Iowa to conduct groundwater studies that will assist with the development of the Linn County Comprehensive Water Quality Management and Mitigation Plan. The contract period is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, for a total estimated cost not to exceed \$130,000. This was previously discussed at the August 4th meeting and includes 3 separate water quality projects. Those projects are: aquifer vulnerability mapping that will highlight areas of the county based upon various parameters such as groundwater recharge potential, containment risk and typical groundwater usage; contaminant plume map that will compile known groundwater plumes (bodies of contaminated groundwater) to map the extent of the plumes and any overlapping impacts and surface water sampling assessment to compile available spatial coverage, summarize water quality factors and provide recommendations for filling any data gaps, among other sustainable management recommendations.

Chairperson Meisheid expressed her appreciation for Matteson reviewing the contracts with them again.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that with the amount of work that has gone into this, the county is so fortunate to have Matteson. These studies are critical for the county, and it is important to get this information. She added that they are adding other county departments to help with these projects as well.

Matteson introduced Kelly Nascimento, GIS Specialist, who has been very critical to this project. Nascimento has been helping with the watershed mapping.

Chairperson Meisheid echoed Supervisor Running-Marquardt's comments, and she is also grateful and blessed at Linn County with the resources and expertise they have.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to authorize the Chair to sign a contract between Linn County and the University of Iowa to conduct groundwater studies that will assist with the development of the Linn County Comprehensive Water Quality Management and Mitigation Plan. The contract period is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, for a total estimated cost not to exceed \$130,000.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., discussed using software budget funds previously approved for Planning and Development FY26 Budget for ePlanSoft software for Forerunner Floodplain Management software. His office submitted a budget offer for ePlanSoft software, and they found out that software is not a good fit for their office. Nichols is requesting to repurpose those funds in the amount of \$11,540 for Forerunner software instead. Both software systems have the same annual cost.

Chairperson Meisheid asked what the impact of this new software would be on his staff. Nichols responded that this software would allow his team to focus on other areas as there is more development coming to Linn County. The burden is being taken off a person and put on the software instead. Meisheid also questioned the safety of this software and Nichols stated that he has talked to IT and will get their formal approval.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve using software budget funds previously approved for Planning and Development FY26 Budget for ePlanSoft software for Forerunner Floodplain Management software.

Darrin Gage, Dir., of Policy & Admin, discussed a request to carry over \$10,000 from the fiscal year 2025 Board of Supervisors General County Management budget to fiscal year 2026 for in-person crisis communication training. Gage stated that this was an approved budget offer, but the offer did not include the funding to bring people to Linn County to administer in person training.

Chairperson Meisheid asked what training in person looks like and Joi Alexander, Communications Dir., stated that the consultant would come to Linn County to conduct training on the plan itself. Funds that are not used will be returned to the general fund.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she is in favor of approving this today. She did note that the money should have been included in the original offer. Moving forward, departments should try to include all costs associated with a budget offer as that would help to better prepare the Board.

Alexander stated that their intent was to use the extra money they had, but it was a matter of timing that it did not work out.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve a request to carry over \$10,000 from the fiscal year 2025 Board of Supervisors General County Management budget to fiscal year 2026 for in-person crisis communication training.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., discussed the following ordinances amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 105, Article III, Electrical Installation; an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 105, Article IV, Mechanical Systems and an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 105, Article IV, Mechanical Systems. They are required to keep ordinances in line with the state and there have been no significant changes for the 1-year updates.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to set a public hearing date of October 13, 2025, at 10 a.m. for an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 105, Article III, Electrical Installation.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to set a public hearing date of October 13, 2025, at 10 a.m. for an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 105, Article IV, Mechanical Systems.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to set a public hearing date of October 13, 2025, at 10 a.m. for an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 105, Article V, Plumbing.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to amend the agenda item for a proposed perpetual easement granting Interstate Power and Light Company the right to construct and maintain underground electric and telecommunications lines on Linn County property at the Secondary Road District #1 Shop at 788 Cedar River Road, Mount Vernon to Secondary Road District #2 Shop at 788 Cedar River Road, Mount Vernon.

Garret Reddish, Asst. County Engineer, presented a proposed perpetual easement granting Interstate Power and Light Company the right to construct and maintain underground electric and telecommunications lines on Linn County property at the Secondary Road District #2 Shop at 788 Cedar River Road, Mount Vernon. A new turn lane at the intersection of Hwy. 30 and Cedar River Rd. was constructed as a safety improvement. They asked Alliant to install a destination light and the removal of a pole to increase safety. Alliant would need to install an underground line on the back slope of Cedar River Rd. This is a unique situation where Linn County's parcel extends. There has been some confusion with that intersection and people treating it as an exit ramp. The destination light would provide a visual marker at night and illuminate the intersection.

Chairperson Meisheid stated that this is a huge step forward with illuminating the intersection and she is thrilled that it's getting attention.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked if Reddish had received input from the neighbors. Discussion continued regarding a recent accident with a tractor.

The Board will approve next week.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve payroll authorizations (detail is available upon request).

Adjournment at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Vice Chairperson
Board of Supervisors