

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **October 27, 2025**, at Jean Oxley Public Service Center, 935 2nd St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Board Members Present

Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann

Board Members Absent

Paul Morf, Ashley Whittlesey

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Ryan Schlader Communications; Kent Rector, Nature Center Manager

Others Present

Marty St. Clair, Kate Giannini, Breanna Shea, Larry Weber, Olivia Cohen, Erin Erickson, Matthew Secl, Chuck Tonelli, Darrin Gage

I. Call To Order

Oleson called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

II. Meeting with Linn County Board of Supervisors and the University of Iowa IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering

1. Presentation by IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering Flood Center with updates on the Iowa Water Quality Network. Larry Weber presented on behalf of IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering Flood Center.
2. Discuss various water quality initiatives.
3. Other water discussions if necessary.

No action was taken.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the September 22, 2025, meeting.

10/27/2025

2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims and Transfer List # 2026-04.
3. Receive and place on file the September 2025 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the September 2025 activity report.
5. Acceptance of Gifts
 1. Gift #46-2025 – Monetary donation (\$150) from Jacqueline Bannister for the Animal Ambassador Fund at Wickiup Hill.
 2. Gift #47-2025 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Iowa Master Naturalists in recognition of Kent Rector for use at Wickiup Hill.
6. Capital Improvement Program updates.

V. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve the consent agenda.

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

2. **Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to submit a Water Quality Initiative Grant through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for a water quality wetland at Stark Settlement Natural Area and authorize staff to sign the application.**

Gibbins reviewed a Water Quality Initiative Grant through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for a water quality wetland at Stark Settlement Natural Area.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize staff to sign and submit the application.

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

3. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-30 setting the date and time for a public hearing regarding wetland construction projects at the Linn Learning Farm, Project 22-25.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2025-30 setting the date and time for a public hearing regarding wetland construction projects at the Linn Learning Farm, Project 22-25.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2025-30 setting the time and date for the public hearing.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a Prairie Partners Cost Share Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for establishing prairie at Matsell Bridge Natural Area and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.**

Gibbins reviewed the Prairie Partners Cost Share Agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for establishing prairie at Matsell Bridge Natural Area.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

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

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

5. **Discuss and decide regarding Wickiup Hill Learning Center remodeling projects and authorize the Director to sign the contracts, Project 3-25.**

Goemaat reviewed contracts for the Wickiup Hill Learning Center remodeling projects.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

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

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding approving an agricultural lease at Wanatee Park to prepare the fields for pollinator plantings.**

Gibbins reviewed an agricultural lease at Wanatee Park to prepare the fields for pollinator plantings.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize staff to sign the lease.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding a contract with Larkspur Ecological Restoration for invasive species control work at Wanatee Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract.**

Gibbins reviewed a contract with Larkspur Ecological Restoration for invasive species control work at Wanatee Park. Oleson questioned the long-term impact. Gibbins confirmed the project should improve the health of the prairie for years into the future without additional near-term contractual work.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

The Conservation Board went into recess at 10:56 AM to participate in the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors.

The Conservation Board came out of recess at 11:51 AM.

8. Discuss the preliminary Conservation Board FY27 budget.

Goemaat reviewed the preliminary Conservation Board FY27 budget. Oleson commented in regard to the IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering Flood Center request to Linn County for funding support as needing more information about the timeline expected for a return to funding by state and federal sources. Kanz suggested Linn County support water monitoring focus on efforts within Linn County.

No action was taken.

VI. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 - a. Rector updated the board on the Boundary Waters wilderness trip with Metro High School. – Matthew Secl and Chuck Tonelli from Metro High School presented on a student trip to the Boundary Waters. They thanked Kent Rector for his help leading the trip and previous work with Metro High School through Linn County Conservation education programs.

VI. Public comment
None.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 PM.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary