LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **November 24, 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; Josh Fossum, District Park Ranger; Riley Conrad, Assistant Park Ranger

Others Present
Clark Robertson, Michelle Cheever

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 October 27, 2025, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims and Transfer List # 2026-05.
3. Receive and place on file the October 2025 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the October 2025 activity report.
5. Acceptance of Gifts
    1. Gift #48-2025 – Aaron Batchelder donation of four round hay bales for animals in the wildlife enclosure at Pinicon Ridge Park.
    2. Gift #49-2025 – Paustin Farms donation of a grain storage bin for use in the wildlife enclosure at Pinicon Ridge Park.
    3. Gift #50-2025 - Monetary donation ($5,000) from Janice Hikiji for undesignated support of the Linn County Conservation Board program.

6. Capital Improvement Program updates.

IV. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Oleson

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 Linn Learning Farm wetlands construction, Project #22-25.**

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 Linn Learning Farm wetlands construction, Project #22-25.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To close the public hearing.

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

3. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-31, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for Linn Learning Farms wetland construction, Project #22-25.**

   Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-31, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for Linn Learning Farms wetland construction, Project #22-25.

   Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

   To approve Resolution #2025-31.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2025-32 awarding a contract for construction of the Linn Learning Farm wetlands, Project #22-25 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.**

   Doscher reviewed Resolution #2025-32 awarding a contract for construction of the Linn Learning Farm wetlands, Project #22-25.

   Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausman

   To approve Resolution #2025-32 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

5. **Discuss and decide regarding on Resolution #2025-33 appointing Riley Conrad as a law enforcement officer as provided in Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa.**

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2025-33 appointing Riley Conrad as a law enforcement officer as provided in Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa. Morf and Goemaat discussed Assistant Ranger job duties.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve Resolution #2025-33 and appoint Riley Conrad as a law enforcement officer.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a project to improve the Pinicon Ridge Park group camp area and authorize staff to purchase four Huffcut restroom buildings for group camps, Project #05-26.**

Doscher reviewed a project to improve the Pinicon Ridge Park group camp area with four Huffcut restroom buildings, Project #05-26.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve Project #05-26 and authorize staff to purchase the Huffcut buildings.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding a contract to replace the roof on the Pinicon Ridge ranger residence and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #08-26**

Goemaat reviewed a contract to replace the roof on the Pinicon Ridge ranger residence. Project #08-26.

Motion by Morf, second by Whittlesey

To approve project #08-26 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding a remodeling project at the Morgan Creek ranger residence and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #10-26.**

Goemaat reviewed a remodeling project at the Morgan Creek ranger residence, Project #10-26. Oleson noted support for the residence policy.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Morf

To approve project #10-26 and authorize staff to purchase project materials.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a project to maintain and remodel the Pinicon Ridge Park Plains cabins and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #11-26.**

Goemaat reviewed approving a project to maintain and remodel the Pinicon Ridge Park Plains cabins, Project #11-26. Oleson discussed mattress alternatives.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve project #11-26 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding a contract to replace the roofs on the Pinicon Ridge Park Plains camping cabins and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #11-26.**

Goemaat reviewed a contract to replace the roofs on the Pinicon Ridge Park Plains camping cabins, Project #11-26.

Motion by Morf, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

11. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a contract to replace the septic system at Horseshoe Falls Lodge in Pinicon Ridge Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #17-26.**

Goemaat reviewed a contract to replace the septic system at Horseshoe Falls Lodge in Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #17-26. Item was tabled until permits, engineering and quotes are received.

No motion was made.

12. **Discuss and decide regarding change orders for the Morgan Creek Park Lodge and authorize the Director to sign the change orders, Project #10-22.**

Burke reviewed change orders for the Morgan Creek Park Lodge, Project #10-22. Kanz and Morf noted support for the change orders.

Motion by Morf, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the change orders.

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

13. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a contract to replace the roof on Horseshoe Falls Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #12-26.**

Goemaat reviewed a contract to replace the roof on Horseshoe Falls Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #12-26.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve Project #12-26 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

14. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a contract to replace the concrete in the Meadowlark Shelter and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #15-26.**

Doscher reviewed a contract to replace the concrete in the Meadowlark Shelter, Project #15-26.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve Project #15-26 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

15. **Discuss city of Palo request to acquire Palo Natural Area to develop for a city park.**

Goemaat reviewed a request from the city of Palo to acquire Palo Natural area to develop for a city park. Morf asked about annexation. Kanz asked about other proximate conservation land availability. Goemaat noted riverbank erosion. Cheever noted the parcel could be split along the floodplain contour and Palo's preferred timeline would be within a year. Goemaat noted he would discuss the proposal with the Board of Supervisors

No Motion was made.

16. **Discuss and decide regarding approving the Conservation Board FY27 budget and authorizing the Director to submit to County Finance and Budget for review.**

Goemaat reviewed **the Conservation Board FY27 budget.**

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to submit the FY27 budget to County Finance and Budget for review. Oleson noted future revenue growth to the County might restore Reserve budget to past levels. Morf suggested future advocacy by the Board if capital funds were not adequate for needed projects.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

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

VI. Public comment

None.

VIII. Adjourn

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

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary