LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **January 26, 2026,** 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
Member Morf 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; Aaron Batchelder, District Park Ranger

## Others Present

Grace Nieland

## I. Call To Order

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

## II. Public Comment

None.

## III. Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of the January 26, 2026, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims and Transfer List # 2026-07.
3. Receive and place on file the December 2026 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the December 2026 activity report.
5. Acceptance of Gifts
    1. Gift #53-2025 - Monetary donation ($100) from Rob McKillip to support mountain bike trails.
    2. Gift #54-2025 - Monetary donation ($100) from Jacqueline Bannister for use with the Animal Ambassador Fund for the conservation education program.

3. Gift #1-2026 - Monetary donation ($1,000) from Scott and Charlotte Gunnufson Charitable Trust for support of the conservation education program.
4. Gift #2-2026 – Donation of garden gnomes from Luke Krumm for Wickiup Hill conservation education program.
5. Gift #3-2026 – Monetary donation ($50) from Karen Antons for bird food at Wickiup Hill Learning Center

6. Authorize staff to order a tandem-axle dump truck for delivery in the 2027 fiscal year.

7. 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: none

2. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2026-1 setting the date and time for a public hearing regarding invasive species control work at Bird Preserve, Project 25-26.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2026-1 setting the date and time for a public hearing regarding invasive species control work at Bird Preserve, Project 25-26. Whittlesey asked about which invasive species would be removed. Gibbins confirmed species the project would target.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

To approve Resolution #2026-1 and set the time and date for the public hearing.

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

3. **Discuss potential water quality bond partnership projects.**

Goemaat, Gibbins, and the Board discussed potential water quality bond partnership projects. Oleson commented on the need to take care with bond dollars so as not to fund projects that should be a developer's responsibility.  Morf supported Oleson's comments.  Morf asked about the future of the airport project property and whether it might be sold for development.  Goemaat noted the airport communicated it will stay city property for future airport expansion.

**No Motion was made.**

4. **Discuss schedule and amounts of upcoming bond sale.**

Goemaat discussed schedule and proposed amounts of upcoming bond sale. Kanz noted favorability for the proposed bond sale.  Morf and Goemaat discussed bond planning and sale process timelines.

**No Motion was made.**

5. **Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to donate excess canoes from the former shuttle operation at Pinicon Ridge Park to Project Aware for their river cleanup efforts.**

Goemaat and Batchelder reviewed authorizing staff to donate excess canoes from the former shuttle operation at Pinicon Ridge Park to Project Aware for their river cleanup efforts.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize staff to donate excess canoes to Project Aware.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding approval of the firewood RFP proposal and approve a purchase award for firewood purchases for the 2026 – 2028 season and authorize the Director to sign the agreement.**

Gibbins reviewed a firewood RFP and purchase award for firewood purchases for the 2026 – 2028 season.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve a firewood purchase award to Kroul Farms for the 2026–2028 camping seasons.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding the calendar year 2025 annual report and authorizing distribution.**

Schlader reviewed the calendar year 2025 annual report.

**Motion** by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve and authorize staff to distribute the 2025 annual report.

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding the Conservation Board's 2026 Annual Agenda.**

Goemaat reviewed the Conservation Board's 2026 Annual Agenda.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the Conservation Board's 2026 Annual Agenda.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding a temporary construction easement with the City of Cedar Rapids for riverbank stabilization adjacent to Bird Preserve.**

Gibbins reviewed a temporary construction easement with the City of Cedar Rapids for riverbank stabilization adjacent to Bird Preserve. Morf asked if this project would have a budget impact. Gibbins confirmed it would not.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve he temporary construction easement and authorize the Director to sign the easement.

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding accepting a Forest Resiliency Grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.**

Goemaat reviewed a Forest Resiliency Grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Whittlesey

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

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

11. **Discuss and decide regarding purchasing a bridge for the off-leash area at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project 28-26.**

Doscher reviewed purchasing a bridge for the off-leash area at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project 28-26. Quotes received included the following:

1. Wheeler: $41,350.00
2. Contech: $39,200.00

**Motion** by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve the low quote from Contech for $39,200.00 and authorize the Director to sign the purchase agreement.

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

12. **Discuss and decide regarding a mountain bike trail addition at Wanatee Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #3-22B.**

Doscher reviewed a quote received for a mountain bike trail addition at Wanatee Park from Innovative Dirt Solutions for $149,957.50.

**Motion** by Whittlesey, second by Kanz

To approve the quote from Innovative Dirt Solutions for $149,957.50 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

13. **Election of Officers for 2026 (Conservation Board)**
**1. President** **2. Vice-President** **3. Secretary**

Goemaat noted term dates for each member and Board policy parameters for choosing officers.

**Motion** by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey.

Motion to elect Kanz as Board President, Hausmann as Board Vice-President and Whittlesey as Board Secretary for calendar year 2026.

**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 Upcoming legislative issues including IWILL. Oleson noted public outreach and education opportunities for local political and community groups.

## VI. Public comment

None.

## VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary