

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **February 23, 2026**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Kendal Hausmann, Ashley Whittlesey
Oleson joined the meeting by phone.

Board Members Absent

Paul Morf

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Ryan Schlader Communications; Randy Burke, Planner; Ted Doscher, Planner; Lisa Powell, HR

Others Present

Fernando Oliveira, HR Green

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 January 26, 2026, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims and Transfer List # 2026-8.
3. Receive and place on file the January 2026 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the January 2026 activity report.
5. Acceptance of Gifts
 1. Gift #4-2026 – Monetary donation (\$200) from Brian Wolfgram for the bird feeder program at Wickiup Hill.
 2. Gift #5-2026 – Monetary donation (\$3,000) from Connie Wright for the bird feeder program and other education needs at Wickiup Hill.
6. 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: Morf

2. **Discuss and decide regarding approving the Grant Wood Trail development project from Paralta Road to Springville Road and authorizing the Director to sign the construction contract, Project #16-20A.**

Doscher reviewed approving the Grant Wood Trail development project from Paralta Road to Springville Road, Project #16-20A.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the construction contract.

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

3. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a construction administration contract amendment with Anderson Bogert Engineers for the Creekside to Springville Road segment of the Grant Wood Trail and authorizing the Director to sign the amendment, Project #16-20.**

Doscher reviewed a construction administration contract amendment with Anderson Bogert Engineers for the Creekside to Springville Road segment of the Grant Wood Trail, Project #16-20.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the amendment.

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

4. **Discuss and decide on adopting Resolution #2026-2, requesting the Linn County Board of Supervisors sell bonds to fund Linn County Water & Land Legacy Bond projects.**

Goemaat and the Board reviewed Resolution #2026-2, requesting the Linn County Board of Supervisors sell bonds to fund Linn County Water & Land Legacy Bond projects.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve Resolution #2026-2 requesting the Linn County Board of Supervisors sell bonds to fund Linn County Water & Land Legacy Bond projects.

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

5. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Bird Preserve invasive species control work, 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 the Bird Preserve invasive species control work, Project #6-25. 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: Morf

6. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2026-3, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for the Bird Preserve invasive species control work, Project #6-25.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2026-3, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for the Bird Preserve invasive species control work, Project #6-25.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2026-3.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution 2026-4 awarding a contract for the Bird Preserve invasive species control work and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #25-26.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution 2026-4 awarding a contract for the Bird Preserve invasive species control work, Project #25-26.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution 2026-4 and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

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

02/23/2026

8. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a tentative labor contract agreement with Linn County Conservation employees through the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union and authorizing Board members and staff to sign the agreement when finalized.**

Goemaat and Powell reviewed a tentative labor contract agreement with Linn County Conservation employees through the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Board members and staff to sign the agreement when finalized.

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding approving change orders for the Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail and authorize the Director to sign the change orders, Project #09-24.**

Doscher reviewed change orders for the Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail, Project #09-24.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

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

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

10. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a professional services contract amendment with Anderson Bogert Engineers for design of the Wapsi Bluff Trail segment through Pinicon Ridge Park and authorizing the Director to sign the amendment, Project #12-21.**

Burke reviewed a professional services contract amendment with Anderson Bogert Engineers for design of the Wapsi Bluff Trail segment through Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #12-21.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the amendment.

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

11. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for invasive species control at the North Unit of the Wickiup Hill Natural Area and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #24-26.**

Gibbins reviewed a contract for invasive species control at the North Unit of the Wickiup Hill Natural Area, Project #24-26.

Motion by Hausmann, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

12. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for invasive species control at Morgan Creek Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #26-26.**

Gibbins reviewed a contract for invasive species control at Morgan Creek Park, Project #26-26.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

02/23/2026

13. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a preliminary design preparation contract with Snyder & Associates for design of the Dows Maniti Trail and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #6-19.**

Doscher reviewed a preliminary design preparation contract with Snyder & Associates for design of the Dows Maniti Trail, Project #6-19.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 - a. Goemaat updated the Board on the planning process for transition to an online reservation system for the 2027 camping season.

VI. Public comment

None.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary