LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, MARCH 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 **March 23, 2026,** at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
Brent Oleson, George Kanz, Ashley Whittlesey, Paul Morf

Board Members Absent
Kendal Hausmann

Staff Present
Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Ryan Schlader Communications; Randy Burke, Planner; Ted Doscher, Planner;

Others Present
Grace Nieland, Gazette

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 February 23, 2026, meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims and Transfer List # 2026-09.
3. Receive and place on file the February 2026 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the February 2026 activity report.
5. Acceptance of Gifts
    1. none
6. Capital Improvement Program updates.

IV. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**

   Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

   To approve the consent agenda.

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

2. **Update from Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (LAMBA).**

   Rob McKillup from the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association updated the board and thanked Conservation for new trail development and partnership with LAMBA.

   No Motion was made.

3. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2026-5, amendment #45 to the fees and charges, establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2026 recreation season.**

   Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2026-5, amendment #45 to the fees and charges, establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2026 recreation season. Oleson commented on lodge rates. Morf asked about revenue budgeting.

   Motion by Whittlesey, second by Oleson

   To approve and authorize Resolution #2026-5 establishing fees for certain facilities for the 2026 recreation season.

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

4. **Discuss and decide regarding a contract amendment with WHKS for full design and engineering for the Stark wetland and authorize the Director to sign the amendment, Project #16-25.**

Gibbins reviewed a contract amendment with WHKS for full design and engineering for the Stark wetland, Project #16-25.

Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

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

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

5. **Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to purchase a Bobcat mini excavator with mulcher head for habitat improvement and invasive species control work.**

Goemaat reviewed the purchase of a Bobcat mini excavator with mulcher head for habitat improvement and invasive species control work.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Morf

To approve and authorize staff to purchase a Bobcat mini excavator.

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

6. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for installation of a new septic system at Horseshoe Falls Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #17-26.**

Goemaat reviewed awarding a contract for installation of a new septic system at Horseshoe Falls Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #17-26.

Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

7. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a professional services agreement with Snyder & Associates for a conceptual design update for the Cedar River Bridge on the Morgan Creek Trail and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #5-19.**

Doscher reviewed a professional services agreement with Snyder & Associates for a conceptual design update for the Cedar River Bridge on the Morgan Creek Trail, Project #5-19.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Morf

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

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

8. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a professional services agreement with YTT Engineering for a design proposal for the Matsell Bridge shooting range and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #14-26.**

Burke reviewed a professional services agreement with YTT Engineering for a design proposal for the Matsell Bridge shooting range, Project #14-26. Oleson recommended camera surveillance for rule enforcement. Morf asked about range safety history.

Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

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

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

9. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for an overlay and repair project on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project #30-26.**

Doscher reviewed a contract for an overlay and repair project on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Project #30-26.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Morf

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

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

Burke reviewed a change order for the Morgan Creek Park Lodge, Project #10-22.

Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

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

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

11. **Discuss and decide regarding purchasing trees for the spring tree planting program and authorize staff to sign a contract with the selected supplier, Projects #8-19; #10-22; and #5-26.**

Gibbins reviewed purchasing trees for the spring tree planting program, Projects #8-19; #10-22; and #5-26.

Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize staff to purchase trees.

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

12. **Discuss and decide regarding Conservation Board participation in local community water quality initiatives through the Linn County Water and Land Legacy Bond.**

Goemaat reviewed Conservation Board participation in local community water quality initiatives through the Linn County Water and Land Legacy Bond. Morf commented on Google data center potentially moving to Palo to circumvent Linn County development standards.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Morf

To authorize staff to develop funding agreements with partners for potential contributions.

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

13. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a farm lease amendment for the Linn Learning Farm with Rex Miller and authorizing the Director to sign the amendment.**

Gibbins reviewed a farm lease amendment for the Linn Learning Farm with Rex Miller.

Motion by Morf, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize the Director to sign the amendment.

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

14. **Discuss and decide regarding Resolution #2026-6 rescinding Resolution#2026-4 and awarding a contract to Hunter Quality contracting for invasive species control at Bird Preserve, and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #25-26.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2026-6 rescinding Resolution#2026-4 and awarding a contract to Hunter Quality contracting for invasive species control at Bird Preserve, Project #25-26.

Motion by Whittlesey, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2026-6 rescinding Resolution#2026-4 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

15. **Discuss and decide regarding a 28E agreement with Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation for exchange of mowing duties at Murphy Lake and Brockman Cemetery and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the agreement.**

Gibbins reviewed the 28E agreement with Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation for exchange of mowing duties at Murphy Lake and Brockman Cemetery.

Motion by Oleson, second by Whittlesey

To approve and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the agreement.

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

16. **Discuss the status of Mt Vernon to Cedar Rapids trail corridor.**

Goemaat and Morf reviewed the status of the Mt Vernon to Cedar Rapids trail corridor.

No Motion was made.

V. Board member / staff reports

1. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
   a. Goemaat updated the board on Linn County Trails Association can receptacles along trails.
   b. Oleson and Goemaat updated the Board on the annual Board of Supervisors meeting with the Farm Bureau.

VI. Public comment

None.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary