



## LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **September 25, 2023**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center  
10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

#### **Board Members Present**

George Kanz, Brent Oleson, Kendal Hausmann

#### **Board Members Absent**

Cindy Burke, Steve Emerson

#### **Staff Present**

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

#### **Others Present**

Rob McKullip, Jessica Wiskus, Breanna Holt, Jason Garrett Jr., Sasha Gallagher, Rylee, Steffen, Jen Steffen, Isaac Hodgins

#### **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 August 29, 2023 meeting.
2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2024-3.  
Claims and Transfer list #2024-3 involving claim #3-258 through #3-390.
3. Receive and place on file the August 2023 financial/budget report.
4. Receive and place on file the August 2023 activity report.
5. Acceptance of gifts.
  1. Gift #12-2024 – Donation of supplies from Step Outdoors (Stacy Boone) in support of the South San Juan Wilderness Trek.
6. Capital Improvement Program updates

#### IV. Regular Agenda

1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve the consent agenda.

Vote:            aye: all present  
                  nay: none  
                  absent: Burke, Emerson

2. Presentation by a representative of the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association regarding mountain bike trail development in Linn County.

Rob McKullip presented on behalf of Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (LAMBA). Oleson asked about potential future bike events.

No motion was made.

3. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21.

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for the campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To close the public hearing.

VOTE:    aye: all present  
          nay: none  
          absent: Burke, Emerson

4. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-21, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21.

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-21, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #29-21.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-21.

VOTE: aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Emerson

5. Discuss and decide regarding bids received for campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorizing the Director to sign a contract with the selected contractor, Project #29-21.

Randy Burke reviewed bids received for campground expansion at Pinicon Ridge Park. Isaac commented on bid process details. Low bid received was from Rathje Construction Co. for \$3,108,900. Oleson commented on paving alternates.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To accept the low base bid with alternate B & D for \$3,108,900 from Rathje Construction Co. and authorize the Director to sign a contract.

VOTE: aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Emerson

6. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-22 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for hard-surfacing the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Urbana to the Bear Creek Bridge. Project #5-21C.

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2023-22 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for hard-surfacing the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Urbana to the Bear Creek Bridge. Project #5-21C.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-22 as amended setting date and time for the public hearing.

VOTE: aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Emerson

7. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-23 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trail grant application for developing the Grant Wood Trail from Paralta Road to Springville Road.

Oleson requested a motion to amend the Resolution to name the Grant Wood Trail segment from Paralta Road to Springville Road as the requested project in the application. Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2023-23 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trail grant application for developing and paving the Grant Wood Trail from Paralta Road to Springville Road.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2023-23 as amended authorizing staff to submit the grant application.

VOTE: aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Emerson

8. Meet with Darrin Gage, Linn County Director of Policy and Administration, to discuss possible acquisition of the County Roads Morgan Creek shop property.

Goemaat and the Board discussed possible acquisition of the County Roads Morgan Creek shop property. Gage was not present. Oleson noted the property could be used for a dog park or other park use. Oleson noted the property was reviewed by Risk Management for chemical contamination from fuel tanks with no issues found. Oleson suggested staff discussions concerning a fair price.

No motion was made.

9. Discuss and decide regarding selecting a preferred candidate and casting a ballot for the selected candidate for the District VI representative to the Iowa County Conservation System Board of Directors.

Goemaat and the Board discussed selecting a preferred candidate and casting a ballot for the selected candidate for the District VI representative to the Iowa County Conservation System Board of Directors.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve and authorize the Director to cast a ballot for Jenny Murphy on behalf of the Board.

VOTE: aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Emerson

10. Discuss and decide regarding removing Thanksgiving Day from the reservation schedule for Linn County Conservation facilities starting in 2024.

Goemaat and the Board discussed removing Thanksgiving Day from the reservation schedule for Linn County Conservation facilities starting in 2024. Oleson commented on other holidays that were also not on the calendar.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To authorize staff to remove Thanksgiving Day from the reservation schedule for Linn County Conservation facilities starting in 2024.

VOTE: aye: all present  
nay: none  
absent: Burke, Emerson

#### **V. Board member / staff reports**

1. Ryan Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
  1. Wilderness Trek report – Rector reported on the Wilderness Trek.
  2. Iowa Economic Development Authority Community Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grant for tree planting – Gibbins reported on the CDBG Grant received for tree planting.
  3. Elk inspection report – Goemaat reported on USDA requirements.
  4. Proposal to host the 2026 annual ICCS conference in Linn County – Goemaat reported on the ICCS conference potential to be hosted by the Board.

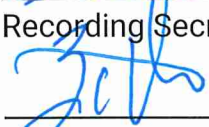
**VI. Public comment**

Jessica Wiskus commented on opposition to the proposed carbon pipeline and submitted written comments.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m. Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL

  
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Recording Secretary  
  
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Board Secretary