



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **September 26, 2022**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Steve Emerson, George Kanz, Brent Oleson
Member Kanz was appointed acting Secretary.

Board Members Absent

Hughes, Burke

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Executive Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ted Doscher, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist.

Others Present

Mary Clapp, Jean McDonough

Call To Order

Emerson called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Public Comment

Mary Clapp commented on R5 and asked why an FRT grant was being submitted. Mary also asked about how the public meeting would be advertised.

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the August 22, 2022 monthly meeting

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2023-3.

Claims and Transfer list #2023-3 involving claim #3-256 through #3-446

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the August 2022 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the August 2022 activity report.

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ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #3-2023 – Monetary donation (\$30) from Nancy Ritter for support of the education program at Wickiup Hill.
2. Gift #4-2023 – Monetary donation (\$20) from Kathy Daggett for support of the education program at Wickiup Hill.
3. Gift #5-2023 – Monetary donation (\$250) from Angi Quam for support of the South San Juan Wilderness Trek.
4. Gift #6-2023 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Eva Henrichsen in honor of Joe Hilgendorf.
5. Gift #7-2023 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Jim and Donna Cannon for support of the education program at Wickiup Hill.

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.

Doscher reviewed bids received for the Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21. Apparent low responsive bid received was from Eastern Iowa Excavating. Bids received were as follows:

Contractor	Base	Alt1	Alt2
1.) Eastern Iowa Excavating	\$1,158,894.60	\$128,281.75	\$190,260.50
2.) Midwest Concrete	\$1,234,897.80	\$67,147.00	\$139,816.00
3.) Unzeitig	\$1,618,239.80	\$90,366.00	\$211,218.00
4.) Boomerang Inc.	\$1,163,707.46	\$253,725.00	\$302,728.00
5.) Peak Construction	\$1,229,193.00	\$93,861.00	\$162,726.00
6.) Woodruff Construction	\$1,408,249.64	\$92,148.20	\$220,304.20

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve the low responsive bid and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

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ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-30 authorizing staff to submit a State Lowhead Dam Mitigation grant proposal retroactive to September 15 for the dam modification project at Pinicon Ridge Park, Project #19-19.

Gibbins reviewed an application to the State Lowhead Dam Mitigation program for funding of the Pinicon Ridge Dam Modification project. Oleson asked staff to summarize the public input process for the design project. Gibbins summarized the various public input efforts throughout the design process. Oleson noted public input had been significant.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2022-30 authorizing staff to submit a State Low-head Dam Mitigation grant proposal retroactive to September 15.

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

ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-31 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for tree removal at Pinicon Ridge Park for the campground expansion, Project #29-21.

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2022-31 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for tree removal at Pinicon Ridge Park for the campground expansion. Oleson asked what sections of the area would be cleared for grading. Randy Burke confirmed area to be cleared for campsites. Kanz asked about sewer infrastructure depth and design. Randy confirmed sewer lines would be below frost depth.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2022-31 setting the public hearing.

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

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ITEM R5. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-32 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trail grant application for paving the Cedar Valley Trail north of Urbana.

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2022-32 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trail grant application for paving the Cedar Valley Trail north of Urbana. Mary Clapp asked why a media article listed paving as a part of the Destination Iowa grant if this grant application also included it. Randy Burke confirmed each grant would only fund a portion of the project expense for such elements throughout the entire project.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve #2022-32 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trail grant application.

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

ITEM R6. Discuss and decide on a contract amendment with Anderson-Bogert Engineers for construction oversight of a portion of the Grant Wood Trail from Oxley Road to Creekside Road and authorize the Director to sign the amendment.

Burke reviewed a contract amendment with Anderson-Bogert Engineers for construction oversight of a portion of the Grant Wood Trail from Oxley Road to Creekside Road. Oleson asked about cost. Goemaat confirmed the price of the amendment.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

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

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

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to place an order for a Ford F550 truck and two 72" John Deere out-front mowers for the FY24 budget year.

Goemaat reviewed pre-order timelines for these equipment items needed in the FY24 fiscal year.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To authorize staff to place orders for the equipment as presented.

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

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ITEM R8. Board member / staff reports – Board members and staff may report and/or discuss meetings or activities in which they have been involved. (Conservation Board & staff)

1. Ryan Schlader – Schlader reported on recent community outreach, media and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 - a. Grant Wood Trail public input meeting – Gibbins noted the public input meeting for the Grant Wood Trail will be held on October 18th from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM at the American Legion building in Springville.
 - b. Solar project options – Goemaat reviewed additional information about solar options for Conservation areas.
 - c. Review draft Pinicon Ridge Park campground expansion plans. – Gibbins updated the Board on the design process for the Pinicon Ridge Park campground expansion. Emerson asked about some of the roadway design on the concept. Goemaat noted roadway design was being reviewed for efficiency.
 - d. Morgan Creek Trail – Goemaat updated the Board on agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation concerning approval to design the Morgan Creek Trail through their right-of-way north of Morgan Creek Park.

ITEM R9. Public comment

Mary Clapp commented on the Palo area proposed solar farm and asked the Board if they had attended meetings.

Jean McDonough invited the Board to walk the Grant Wood Trail with her and commented on other trails developed around the system. Jean noted her opinion that paved or rock trails have reduced the bird and butterfly populations. Jean commented on long-term involvement with Linn County Trails Association by staff and asked if LTCA members wanted to pave the Grant Wood Trail because they were too “frail” to use the grassed trail surface in its current condition.

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ITEM R10. Closed Session

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To go into closed session at 12:36 PM for the purpose of discussing acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with section 21.5(1)(j) Code of Iowa.

VOTE:
aye: Emerson
aye: Oleson
aye: Kanz
nay: none
absent: Burke, Hughes

MOTION by Oleson, second by Kanz

To go out of closed session at 12:53 PM.

VOTE:
aye: Emerson
aye: Oleson
aye: Kanz
nay: none
absent: Burke, Hughes

ITEM R11. Adjourn

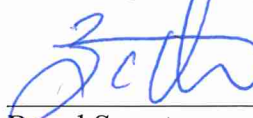
The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary