



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **January 23, 2023**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Burke

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Rich Voelker, Snyder and Associates; Dan and Nancy Biechler

Call To Order

Vice President Emerson called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Conservation Board Appointment

The Oath of Office to Kendal Hausmann was administered by Steve Emerson.

Public Comment

None.

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the December 19, 2022 monthly meeting

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2023-7.

Claims and Transfer list #2023-7 involving claim #7-800 through #7-912

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

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

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ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #15-2023 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Steven Earll for general support of the conservation program.
2. Gift #16-2023 – Monetary donation (\$100,000) from Linn County Trails Association for the Oxley Road to Creekside Road segment of the Grant Wood Trail.
3. Gift #17-2023 – Monetary donation (\$1,500) from BGHN Associates P.C. for undesignated support of the conservation program.
4. Gift #18-2023 – Monetary donation (\$1,500) from BGHN Associates P.C. for support of the education program.
5. Gift #19-2023 – Monetary donation (\$750) from Diane Gallagher for support of the South San Juan Wilderness Trek.
6. Gift #20-2023 – Monetary donation (\$50) from Angela & Phillip Williams for support of the education program.

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Presentation from Rich Voelker, Snyder and Associates regarding the pier review on the Cedar River (Biechler) Bridge.

Rich Voelker from Snyder and Associates presented findings regarding the pier review on the Cedar River (Biechler) Bridge. Kanz commented about concept design and flood levels. Oleson commented about the piers. Kanz noted the importance of lighting. Oleson concurred.

No action was taken.

ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on the 2023 Conservation Board annual agenda.

Goemaat and the Board discussed the 2023 Conservation Board annual agenda. Kanz confirmed the December 2023 Board meeting date and commented on the BOS and Conservation Board joint meeting in August.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve the 2023 Conservation Board annual agenda as presented after adjusting the December Board meeting date to December 18, 2023.

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

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ITEM R4. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Bear Creek Bridge replacement on the Cedar Valley Trail, Project #5-21.

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 Bear Creek Bridge replacement on the Cedar Valley Trail, Project #5-21. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Kanz

To close the public hearing.

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

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-1, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Bear Creek Bridge replacement on the Cedar Valley Trail, Project #5-21.

Randy Burke reviewed the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Bear Creek Bridge replacement on the Cedar Valley Trail, Project #5-21.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-1, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Bear Creek Bridge replacement on the Cedar Valley Trail, Project #5-21.

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

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ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding the calendar year 2022 annual report and authorizing distribution.

Schlader discussed the calendar year 2022 annual report.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve the calendar year 2022 annual report as presented and authorize publication.

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

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-2 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for wetland development at the Bird Preserve, Project #30-21A.

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2023-2 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for wetland development at the Bird Preserve, Project #30-21A

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To approve Resolution #2023-2 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for wetland development at the Bird Preserve, Project #30-21A.

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

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- ITEM R8. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2023-3 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for repairs to the single-track trails at Wanatee Park, Project #3-22.

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2023-3 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for repairs to the single-track trails at Wanatee Park, Project #3-22.

MOTION by Hausmann, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2023-3 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for repairs to the single-track trails at Wanatee Park, Project #3-22.

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

- ITEM R9. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to sign an agreement with IDOT regarding management of the Highway 30/ Lisbon interchange woodland mitigation site.

Goemaat discussed an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation regarding management of the Highway 30/ Lisbon interchange woodland mitigation site.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve an agreement with the IDOT regarding management of the Highway 30/ Lisbon interchange woodland mitigation site.

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

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ITEM R10. Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract to furnish firewood for use in Linn County campgrounds.

Gibbins discussed results of an RFP for furnishing firewood for use in Linn County campgrounds.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve the Kroul Farms, LLC Proposal and award a purchase award to Kroul Farms, LLC for firewood purchase by Linn County Conservation for the 2023 through 2025 camping seasons.

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

ITEM R11. Discuss proposed Linn County Water & Land Bond projects for upcoming sale of bonds.

Goemaat and the Board discussed proposed Linn County Water & Land Bond projects for upcoming sale of bonds. Oleson commented on fiscal year planning for this bond sale. Emerson noted preference for water quality projects. Kanz noted park and trail projects have had a number of water quality elements. Oleson noted having a future update on the bond projects for education and communication efforts by the Board.

No motion was made.

ITEM R12. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Board President to sign a Certificate of Completion for IDOT concerning the Grant Wood Trail paving, Project #21-21.

Randy Burke discussed a Certificate of Completion for IDOT concerning Grant Wood Trail paving, Project #21-21.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hausmann

To authorize the Board President to sign the Certificate of Completion for Project #21-21.

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

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ITEM R13. Election of Officers for 2023 (Conservation Board)

1. President

2. Vice-President

3. Secretary

Goemaat noted term dates for each member and Board policy parameters for choosing officers. Emerson confirmed officer selection based on term tenure would install Emerson as President, Burke as Vice-President and Oleson as Secretary.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hausmann

Motion to elect Steve Emerson as Board President, Cindy Burke as Board Vice-President and Brent Oleson as Board Secretary for calendar year 2023.

Vote: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Burke

ITEM R14. 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 – Community Outreach and Marketing. Schlader updated the Board on various outreach and marketing efforts. Oleson and Emerson discussed comments by the public about the Pinicon Ridge Dam project.
2. Updates:
 - a. Fish Habitat grant award – Gibbins updated the Board on an award of \$30,000 through the Fish Habitat Grant program for the Pinicon Ridge Dam Modification project.

ITEM R15. Public comment

None.

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ITEM R16. Closed Session

MOTION by Oleson, second by Kanz

To go into closed session at 12:54 PM for the purpose of discussing acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with section 21.5(l)(j) Code of Iowa.

VOTE: aye: Emerson
 aye: Oleson
 aye: Kanz
 aye: Hausmann
 nay: none
 absent: Burke

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To go out of closed session at 1:14 PM.

VOTE: aye: Emerson
 aye: Oleson
 aye: Kanz
 aye: Hausmann
 nay: none
 absent: Burke

ITEM R17. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary