

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **January 25, 2021**, via teleconference call.

Board Members Present

Steve Emerson, John Hanson, Brent Oleson

Board Members Absent

Cindy Burke, Hillary Hughes

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Dana Kellogg, Natural Resources Manager

Others Present

Dave Wallis, Adam Lindenlaub, Jennifer Pratt, Aaron Gwinnup – City of Cedar Rapids

Call To Order

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

Brent Oleson was administered the Oath of Office by Board President Steve Emerson

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Hanson, second by Oleson

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 the December 21, 2020 Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2021-7.

Claims and Transfer list #2021-7 involving claim #7-634 through claim #7-724.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the December 2020 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the December 2020 activity report.

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ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #17-2021 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Duane Hinker in memory of Janet Hinker for undesignated program support.
2. Gift #18-2021 – Monetary donation (\$100) from Beverly Aschbrenner in memory of Ron Aschbrenner for use at Morgan Creek Park.
3. Gift #19-2021 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Jacob Burns for undesignated program support.

ITEM C6. Authorize the Director to sign a contract with Peak Construction for the demolition of the Morgan Creek shop due to derecho damage.

ITEM C7. Capital Improvement Program updates report.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Presentation by Jennifer Pratt, Dave Wallace, and Aaron Gwinnup regarding Cedar Lake – South Cell Development project.

Cedar Rapids representatives presented materials about the Cedar Lake south cell development project. Wallace discussed overall planning for the entire lake with other park, watershed and educational improvements along with Cedar River flood protection planning for lake protection. Wallace discussed design elements of the water quality portion being presented. Gwinnup reviewed the south cell proposed improvement concept that would capture and improve storm water runoff from the Kenwood watershed basin. Hanson asked if a treatment design like the proposed concept was available as a model locally. Gwinnup noted that this design is a standard concept used for this type of management project, but this concept is a larger design than typically used. Goemaat noted this concept is very similar to the Morgan Creek wetland currently being constructed. Goemaat asked what would happen to the rest of the south cell outside of the sheet piling perimeter of this project. Gwinnup noted the rest of the south cell will be designed at a later date. Pratt asked the Board to consider a Water and Land Legacy bond contribution of 3 million dollars. Emerson asking what the total budget was. Pratt confirmed 3 to 5 million dollars. Emerson asked about maintenance. Wallace confirmed City of Cedar Rapids would maintain this through City storm water fees. Hanson asked if funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) had been looked into. Goemaat noted the County has been funded by the LWCF previously. Emerson noted this project seems to have good water quality impacts supportive of the bond language and the Board will follow up with staff to review. Goemaat noted this project would be on the February meeting as a discussion agenda item. Pratt indicated that currently the project is a key project, but doesn't have a specific timeline. Emerson thanked the presenters.

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ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on the 2021 Conservation Board annual agenda.

Goemaat and the Conservation Board reviewed the annual agenda.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Hanson

To approve the annual agenda as presented.

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

ITEM R4. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to conduct log sales as part of the derecho cleanup and salvage harvest efforts.

Kellogg reviewed conducting log sales as part of the derecho cleanup and salvage harvest efforts. Goemaat noted log sales will be weekly as weather allows.

MOTION by Hanson, second by Oleson

To authorize the Director or staff designee to conduct log sales as part of the derecho cleanup and salvage harvest efforts.

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

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ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director to sign a clearing and grubbing contract for 23 acres at Wanatee Park and execute other contracts as needed for clearing derecho-damaged woodlands.

Kellogg reviewed a clearing and grubbing contract for 23 acres at Wanatee Park and execute other contracts as needed for clearing derecho-damaged woodlands.

Company	Bid
Miene Septic Service, Inc.	\$120,400
Rathje Construction Co.	\$63,950
Bill Miller Logging, Inc.	\$55,500
Oberbreckling Concrete & Excavating	\$119,330

Apparent low bid is \$55,500 by Bill Miller Logging, Inc.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Hanson

To approve the contract with Bill Miller Logging Inc., and other clearing and grubbing contracts as needed for clearing derecho-damaged woodlands and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contracts on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R6. Discuss proposed Linn County Water & Land Bond projects for upcoming sale of bonds.

Goemaat reviewed proposed Linn County Water & Land Bond projects for upcoming sale of bonds. Hanson, Emerson and Oleson noted preference to move forward quickly on the Pinicon Ridge Dam project with bond funding. Emerson noted asking Cedar Rapids about timing for potential bond funding timing concerning this bond sale or future bond sales. Randy Burke noted design and permitting would likely be a year out at least. Oleson, asked for staff to review the Cedar Lake project ask and how it would fit with future bond project priorities in regard to the total bond dollars available for water quality projects. Goemaat noted staff will bring to the Board a recommendation concerning the Cedar Lake project in regard to other potential project priorities.

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ITEM R7. Discuss and decide regarding chip revenue expenditure plan.

Goemaat reviewed chip revenue expenditure plan.

MOTION by Hanson, second by Oleson

Approve the chip revenue expenditure plan as submitted.

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

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding an engineering and design contract with Anderson Bogert Engineers for rebuilding a section of the Cedar Valley Trail (Hoover segment) and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

Randy Burke reviewed an engineering and design contract with Anderson Bogert Engineers for rebuilding a section of the Cedar Valley Trail (Hoover segment).

MOTION by Oleson, second by Hanson

To approve the engineering and design contract with Anderson Bogert Engineers for rebuilding a section of the Cedar Valley Trail (Hoover segment) and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R9. Election of Officers for 2021 (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 Hanson as President, Hughes as Vice-President and Emerson as Secretary. Emerson suggested this progression. Oleson and Hanson concurred.

Motion by Oleson, second by Hanson

Motion to elect John Hanson as President, Hillary Hughes as Vice-President and Steve Emerson as Secretary for 2021.

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

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ITEM R10. Board member / staff reports – Board members and staff may report and/or discuss meetings or activities in which they have been involved.

1) Community Outreach/Marketing: Schlader reported on recent marketing and educational efforts concerning derecho management efforts for county woodlands, upcoming prairie frost-seeding video, Wapsi Bluff Shelter marketing, etc.

2) Updates:

- a. COVID-19 – Goemaat reported that county buildings continue to be closed and staff continue to roll forward communications to reservation holders to keep patrons updated on closure timelines.
- b. Biotope project plans and update – Randy Burke reported on current draft designs for nature appreciation structures to be developed at Wickiup Hill Learning Center and Wanatee Park.
- c. Tree planting programs – Gibbins reported on Planting Forward program partnership with Monarch Research Program which will supply 10,000 free trees to multiple organizations in Linn County during the spring of 2021.

ITEM R11. Public comment

None.

ITEM R12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM.

Catherine Kastens typed the above minutes.



Recording Secretary

SEAL

Steve Emerson - held via conference call
Board Secretary *by DEH*