

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **February 22, 2021**, via teleconference call.

Board Members Present

John Hanson, Cindy Burke, Steve Emerson, Brent Oleson
Cindy Burke joined the meeting at 12:22 PM

Board Members Absent

Hillary Hughes

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Lisa Powell, HR Director

Others Present

Brenna Fall, Dave Wallace, Jennifer Pratt, Adam Lindenlaub – City of Cedar Rapids

Call To Order

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

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Oleson, second by Emerson

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 January 25, 2021 Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2021-8.
Claims and Transfer list #2021-8 involving claim #8-759 through claim #7-820.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the January 2021 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the January 2021 activity report.

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

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1. Gift #20-2021 – Monetary donation (\$) from for undesignated program support

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program updates report.

ITEM C7. Place on file communication received from Ayla Crosswhite

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Approve the Conservation Board Employee Bargaining Unit Agreement for the term from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

Lisa Powell reviewed the Conservation bargaining unit agreement for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026. Oleson asked about the process for wage bargaining in year 4 and 5. Powell confirmed the Union would send wage requests to HR for the bargaining process each year for year 4 and 5 of the agreement.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Emerson

To approve the Conservation bargaining unit agreement for the term from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026

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

ITEM R3. Discuss South Cell Cedar Lake project.

Goemaat and the Conservation Board reviewed details of the proposed Cedar Rapids South Cell Cedar Lake project under consideration for future Water and Land Legacy Bond support. Jennifer Pratt noted timing on funding is flexible and that a commitment would help the project timeline. Emerson noted his excitement about the project and the level of impact due to the location and amount of pollutant load entering Cedar Lake. Oleson requested additional conversation and voiced excitement about the project as an excellent water quality project. Hanson concurred that the project is a strong water quality project. Hanson asked staff or Brent to schedule a time for additional follow-up discussion as needed. Goemaat advised on making future commitments contingent on bond sale. Oleson asked staff for next steps to have other discussions before additional Board discussion on potential amount of funding that would be considered for this project. Oleson noted any Supervisor concerns about bond sales is not directed toward this project.

No action was taken by the Board.

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ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on the updated Corporate Authorization Resolution with NXT Bank regarding the Conservation Board's facility reservations account and to authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the resolution.

Goemaat reviewed the resolution from NXT Bank for authorized signatories on the reservation account. This resolution is updated annually.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve the resolution from NXT Bank and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the resolution on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide on resolution #2021-1 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for a contract to construct two cold storage buildings – one at Morgan Creek Park and one at Wanatee Park, project #3-21.

Hanson proposed pulling item R5 from the agenda after notification that the public hearing and contract for this project will be managed by the Board of Supervisors as part of the derecho FEMA process.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To remove R5 from the agenda.

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

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ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding an agreement with the Iowa Northern Railway Company for a trail crossing of an active rail line.

Randy Burke reviewed the proposed agreement with the Iowa Northern Railway Company for a trail crossing of an active rail line for the HWY 100 trail project between 42nd Street NW and the Cedar River.

Cindy burke joined at 12:22 PM

MOTION by Oleson, second by Emerson

To approve the agreement and authorize the Board President to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on updating current Board policies – Series 4 Board-Executive Limitations including:

4-1 Employment of the Director

4-2 Delegation of Authority to the Director – Reviewed and approved 2019

4-3 Relationship of the Board to the Public

4-4 Job Expectations of the Director

The Board reviewed Policies 4-1, 4-2, 4-3 and 4-4. Goemaat noted the only proposed change being to policy 4-4 to include the 2019 Strategic Plan.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson

To approve policies 4-1, 4-2, 4-3 and 4-4, as proposed for immediate implementation with readings waived.

VOTE: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: 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.

- 1) Community Outreach/Marketing: Schlader reported on recent marketing and educational efforts including educational videos, the Planting Forward program, department brochures, cross-country skiing updates, upcoming Oak Hickory newsletter and recent media interviews. Hanson noted how good the ski trails have been this year.
- 2) Updates:
 - a. COVID-19 – Goemaat reported that the Board of Supervisors have allowed opening of Conservation facilities following Linn County Public Health guidelines.
 - b. Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency discussions – Goemaat reviewed discussions with the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency about partnership with the agency regarding recreational and educational efforts at Mt. Trashmore.
 - c. Position vacancy – Project Coordinator – Gibbins reported on details for filling the vacant Project Coordinator position due to staff promotion within another department.

ITEM R9. Public comment

None.

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ITEM R10. Closed Session

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

To go into closed session at 12:33 PM for the purpose of discussing acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with section 21.5(1)(j) Code of Iowa.

VOTE:
aye: Hanson
aye: Emerson
aye: Burke
aye: Oleson
nay: none
absent: Hughes

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To go out of closed session at 12:49 PM.

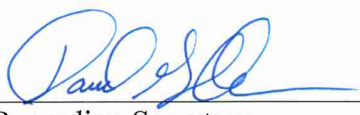
VOTE:
aye: Hanson
aye: Emerson
aye: Burke
aye: Oleson
nay: none
absent: Hughes

ITEM R11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary


Board Secretary