

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, OCTOBER 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 **October 25, 2021**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

John Hanson, Steve Emerson, Cindy Burke, and Brent Oleson

Board Members Absent

Hillary Hughes

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Carter Oswood, Feed Iowa First; Charlie Nichols, Linn County Planning and Development Director

Call To Order

Board President Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Emerson, second by Burke

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the September 27, 2021 monthly meeting

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2022-4.
Claims and Transfer list #2022-4 involving claim #4-345 through #4-461.

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

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

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.
1. Gift #7-2022 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Frank & Susie Makinster in memory of Cecelia Agnes Horn to support the conservation program.

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2. Gift #8-2022 - Monetary donation (\$250) from Lisa Tesar in memory of Cecelia Agnes Horn to support the Cedar Valley Trail.
3. Gift # 9-2022 - Monetary donation (\$25) from Robin Galli in memory of Darrell Perry for use at Pinicon Ridge Park campground.
4. Gift #10-2022 – Monetary donation (\$10) from Kristine Brown in memory of Darrell Perry for use at Pinicon Ridge Park campground.
5. Gift #11-2022 – Donation of 55 mini gourd/pumpkins from John Layton for use at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center's Fall Fest.
6. Gift #12-2022 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Jeremy Kramer in memory of Darrell Perry for use at Pinicon Ridge Park campground.
7. Gift #13-2022 – Monetary donation (\$25) from Laura Fiscus in memory of Darrell Perry for use at Pinicon Ridge Park campground.
8. Gift #14-2022 – Monetary donation (\$50) from Jeremy Bellamy in memory of Darrell Perry for use at Pinicon Ridge Park campground

ITEM C6. Approve design contract with Shive Hattery for a pedestrian bridge over Morgan Creek.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Feed Iowa First Presentation

Carter Oswood with Feed Iowa First presented information about Feed Iowa First and efforts to identify small agricultural parcels for use in their farming incubator and local food production programs. He discussed operations on the Dows Farm Agri-Community and potential expansion utilizing a portion of Conservation property that is currently row cropped south of Lakeside Road. Charlie Nichols reviewed future plans for the Dows Farm Agri-Community and the need for Feed Iowa First to find land to expand. Additional comments included the positive experience with the Feed Iowa First partnership with Linn County. Goemaat commented on staff support for potential use of the property in question just south of Lakeside Road. Future trail development would complement this program with exposure to the alternative farming practices. Oswood discussed the needed lease longevity due to the time it takes to enrich and build the soil with organic practices. Charlie Nichols noted proximity to Cedar Rapids is attractive to the program for this parcel. Hanson asked about the type of barn would be needed. Oswood said this design would be developed at a later time. Burke asked if sales would happen on the property. Oswood noted options could include site sales. Burke asked about water. Goemaat noted water supply would have to be reviewed for access. Oswood noted this water supply would need to include a well and hydrants, but the design would wait until an agreement was in place. Goemaat noted a potential active well north of Lakeside Drive which could be explored. Oswood noted well design would be a first step. Emerson noted the current agricultural lease if terminated this year might need costs covered by the program. Burke suggested staff continue to work on the concept to bring back to the Board. Nichols noted potential ARPA funds for the well on the property should the lease agreement with Feed Iowa First be approved. Goemaat noted a potential trail construction application through ARPA funds to connect this program with the Dows development.

No motion was made.

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ITEM R3. Discuss and decide regarding an access easement across the former Alliant right-of-way corridor for a farm and utility substation crossing.

Goemaat reviewed a proposed access easement across the former Alliant right-of-way corridor for a farm and utility substation crossing.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

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

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

ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on a proposal from Ritland-Kuiper Landscape Architects for planning for projects at Buffalo Creek Park.

Doscher reviewed a proposal from Ritland-Kuiper Landscape Architects for planning and design of future improvements to Buffalo Creek Park and campground.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

To approve and authorize the Director to sign a design contract with Ritland-Kuiper on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2021-20 regarding Fees and Charges for the 2022 season.

Gibbins reviewed proposed Fees and Charges for the 2022 season.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson

To approve Resolution #2021-20 as proposed.

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

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ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding a fee for service agreement with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa to provide a natural resources work crew to Linn County Conservation and authorize the Deputy Director to sign the agreement.

Gibbins reviewed a service agreement with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa to provide a natural resources work crew to Linn County Conservation in 2022. Goemaat noted the funding would initially be from derecho harvest revenues. Burke asked if Bond funding could be used in the future. Goemaat noted that bond funding was a potential for such contract work.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson

To approve and authorize the Deputy Director to sign the agreement pending final legal review.

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

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director to sign a clearing and grubbing contract for Morgan Creek Park.

Kellogg reviewed bids received for a clearing and grubbing contract for Morgan Creek Park. Low bid received was from Bill Miller Logging for \$30,000.00. Burke asked if the contractor would use the material. Kellogg noted Bill Miller has several secondary uses for the ground wood material to produce products for sale.

	BIDDER	TOTAL BID:
1	Bill Miller Logging	\$30,000.00
2	J Pettiecord INC	\$90,000.00
3	S2 Construction LLC	\$86,000.00

MOTION by Burke, second Emerson

To accept the low bid of \$30,000 from Bill Miller Logging and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director to sign a clearing and grubbing contract for Wanatee Park.

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ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director to sign a clearing and grubbing contract for Wanatee Park.

Kellogg reviewed bids received for a clearing and grubbing contract for Wanatee Park. Low bid received was from Bill Miller Logging for \$97,462.00.

	BIDDER	TOTAL BID:
1	Bill Miller Logging	\$97,462.00
2	J Pettiecord INC	\$173,250.00
3	S2 Construction LLC	\$190,000.00

MOTION by Emerson, second Burke

To accept the low bid of \$97,462 from Bill Miller Logging and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

ITEM R9. Discuss the Conservation Board's preliminary FY 2023 budget including operations, capital and ARPA projects.

Goemaat and the Board discussed the preliminary FY 2023 budget including operations, capital and ARPA projects. Hanson noted appreciation for the clarity of the budget document. Oleson asked about the District 1 shop as to a possible budgetary item. Goemaat asked what the parcel might cost. Oleson noted perhaps \$50,000. Goemaat noted interest in the parcel for Morgan Creek Park expansion and flexibility in the budget should the opportunity arise.

No Motion was made.

ITEM R10. Discuss connectivity between parks and open space areas for people and wildlife.

Member Hanson presented on the topic of connectivity between parks and open space areas for people and wildlife. Hanson presented ideas through a memo promoting a savannah habitat along the CVNT trail. Burke noted she likes the concept. Goemaat noted staff could report on the concept at the November 2022 Board meeting.

No Motion was made.

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ITEM R11. 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: Ryan Schlader reported on marketing and communications for an Alliant partnership and IDNR derecho tree planting grant; fall leaf color viewing in County parks; December Oak Hickory publication and Linn County website changes.
- 2) Updates:
 - a. Firewood production review and alternatives. – Gibbins updated the Board on potential use of a vendor to supply firewood for campground firewood sales to replace staff firewood production.
 - b. Signed scope of services agreement with Latham, Ervin, Vognsen & Associates for investigation of solar array potential at selected county parks and areas. – Goemaat updated the Board on a design agreement to review potential solar array sites.
 - c. December meeting date – Board consensus was to hold the December meeting on December 20th at the County PSC building.
 - d. The Nature Conservancy properties. - Goemaat reported on properties owned by The Nature Conservancy that are being offered to the Linn County Conservation Board.
 - e. Brent Oleson asked about the Secondary Roads Shop area as a possible dog use area adjacent to Morgan Creek Park. Oleson asked about the Mount Trashmore strategic plan. Goemaat noted an update in November is planned.

ITEM R12. Public comment

None.

ITEM R13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 PM
Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary