



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **August 22, 2022**, at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

Steve Emerson, Hillary Hughes, George Kanz, Cindy Burke, Brent Oleson

Member Burke joined the meeting by phone.

Member Kanz was appointed acting Secretary.

Member Emerson joined the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Board Members Absent

none

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Marge Appleby, Mary Clapp, Klayten Perreault, Jean McDonough

Call To Order

President Hughes called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Public Comment

Marge Appleby commented about Buffalo Creek Park and potential Native American mounds in the area.

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the July 25, 2022 monthly meeting

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2023-2.

Claims and Transfer list #2023-2 involving claim #2-122 through #2-255

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

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

08/22/2022

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #2-2023 - Donation of 2,250 seedling trees, 250 tree tubes and stakes including labor for planting at Wanatee Park from Ben Bruggeman.

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discuss and decide on awarding a contract for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification and authorizing the Director to sign the contract, Project 26-21.

Gibbins reviewed bids received for the Pinicon Ridge Park Dam modification, Project 26-21. Hughes asked about value engineering discussions between the Engineer and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Gibbins confirmed discussion had been conducted. Bids received were as follows:

Bidder	Amount
Boomerang Corp.	\$3,878,834.02
Taylor Construction	\$4,432,235.00

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve the low bid by Boomerang for \$3,878,834.02 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on a change order for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification and authorizing the Director to sign the change order, Project 26-21.

Gibbins reviewed a change order for the Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification, Project 26-21.

Member Emerson joined the meeting at 12:05 PM.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Kanz

To approve the change order in the amount of \$400,250.00 and authorize the Director to sign the change order.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

08/22/2022

ITEM R4. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.

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 playground at Buffalo Creek Park, Project 26-21. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

Cindy Burke was disconnected from the phone line at 12:07 PM.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Emerson

To close the public hearing.

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

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-29, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.

Doscher reviewed the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21. Goemaat noted no known cultural resources in the area of the project.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2022-29 approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

08/22/2022

ITEM R6. Discuss and decide on a letter to IDOT outlining the importance of the Morgan Creek Trail to Linn County.

Goemaat reviewed a letter to the IDOT outlining the importance of the Morgan Creek Trail to Linn County. Oleson asked why the DOT has changed its recommendation to allow the trail as designed within their right-of-way. Goemaat noted a staff change at the IDOT had initiated the new concerns. Oleson noted likely support for the trail project from both the Board of Supervisors and the City of Cedar Rapids. Goemaat noted next steps include continued staff discussion with the IDOT about their concerns and efforts to resolve the concerns with design accommodations. Goemaat noted delayed bid schedule due to the discussion.

Cindy Burke was reconnected to the phone line at 12:11 PM, rejoining the meeting.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Emerson

To authorize the Board President to sign a letter to the IDOT on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide regarding a grant agreement with Destination Iowa for paving the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and authorizing staff to sign the agreement.

Gibbins reviewed a grant agreement with Destination Iowa for paving the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve the Destination Iowa grant agreement and authorize staff to sign the agreement.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

08/22/2022

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding approving a construction contract for the Oxley Road to Creekside Road Grant Wood Trail segment and authorizing staff to sign the contract, Project #5-14B.

Randy Burke reviewed a construction contract for the Oxley Road to Creekside Road Grant Wood Trail segment, Project #5-14B. Rathje Construction Co. was the low bid at \$1,281,265.42. Bids received are as follows.

Bidder	Bid
Rathje Construction Co.	\$1,281,265.42
Taylor Construction, Inc.	\$1,288,338.28
Tschiggfrie Excavating Co.	\$1,356,562.80
Pirc-Tobin Construction, Inc.	\$1,469,831.88
Midwest Concrete, Inc.	\$1,518,693.10
Boomerang Corps.	\$1,541,845.70
Peterson Contractors Inc.	\$1,625,089.49
Eastern Iowa Excavating and Concrete LLC.	\$1,683,364.25

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve the low bid from Rathje Construction Co. and authorize staff to sign the contract.

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

ITEM R9. 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 and marketing efforts.
2. Updates:
 - a. Wilderness Leadership Trek – Rector reported on the Wilderness Leadership Trek.
 - b. Grant Wood Trail bids for construction of the Oxley to Creekside Road segment.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

08/22/2022

ITEM R10. Public comment

Mary Clapp commented on the wilderness trek report and the politics of trails and commented on the value of leaving the GWT as a grassed trail. Mary noted she felt no urgency for connectivity because the overpass to Springville would not happen until 2027. Mary noted various city council meetings attended to promote designation of the trail for first responders.

Klayten Perreault commented and suggested a volunteer option for the Wilderness Trek in future years.

Jean McDonough commented about her opinion that the agenda should contain more information about items on the agenda as she had seen for other organizations.

ITEM R11. Adjourn

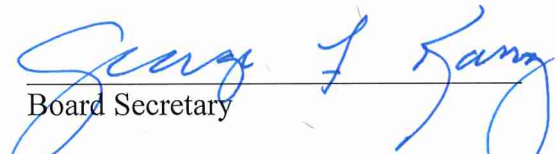
The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary