LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **April 26, 2021,** at the Red Cedar Lodge, Wanatee Park, 1700 Big Bluestem Drive, Marion, IA 52302.

Board Members Present
John Hanson, Steve Emerson, Hillary Hughes, Brent Oleson

Member Hughes joined the meeting by phone.

Member Oleson joined the meeting at 12:06 P.M.

Board Members Absent
Cindy Burke

Staff Present
Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Dana Kellogg, Natural Resources Manager, Ted Doscher, Conservation Project Planner, Jason Baumann, Resource Manager; Aaron Batchelder, Resource Manager

Others Present
Adam Lindenlaub, City of Cedar Rapids

Call To Order
Board President Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Public Comment
None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Emerson, second by Hughes

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve the March 22, 2021 Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2021-10.
Claims and Transfer list #2021-10 involving claim #10-923 through claim #10-1025.

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

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

ITEM C5. **Acceptance of gifts.**

None

ITEM C6. **Approve a contract amendment with Shive-Hattery, Inc. for construction oversight of the Morgan Creek Park day use construction – Project #3-19**

ITEM C7. **Capital Improvement Program updates report.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. **Discuss and decide regarding Cedar Lake south cell project.**

The Board discussed a funding request by the City of Cedar Rapids for Water and Land Legacy Bond support toward the Cedar Lake south cell project. Emerson proposed a contribution up to three million dollars capped by actual construction cost and contingent on availability of bond funds in the future. Hughes asked if single draw or two separate bond letting payments would be best. Emerson said either would be fine. Hughes suggested splitting payment to two bond lettings. Oleson suggested flexibility to make the decision in the future based on circumstances and input by the Board of Supervisors due to interest rates likely increasing. Goemaat noted staff will work with the BOS and Finance to discuss the best approach for the commitments at the appropriate time. Adam Lindenlaub thanked the Board for the commitment.

Oleson joined the meeting at 12:06

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve a Water and Land Legacy Bond funding commitment for up to three million dollars contingent on bond proceeds being made available through the Board of Supervisors for this purpose, capped by actual construction cost and determined by the Director or Deputy Director as to whether bond funding will be contributed through one or multiple bond lettings.

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

ITEM R3. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for repairs on the Cedar Valley Trail north of Urbana.**

Randy Burke reviewed contract details with Peterson Construction, Inc. regarding work on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Emerson

To approve the contract and authorize the Director to sign and execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R4. **Discuss and decide on adopting Resolution #2021-02, requesting the Linn County Board of Supervisors sell bonds to fund specific Linn County Water & Land Legacy Bond projects.**

Goemaat and the Board reviewed Resolution #2021-02, requesting the Linn County Board of Supervisors sell bonds to fund specific Linn County Water & Land Legacy Bond projects.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2021-02 requesting the sale of bonds by the Linn County Board of Supervisors.

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

ITEM R5. **Discuss and decide regarding approving a contract amendment with Shive-Hattery, Inc. for construction oversight for the Highway 100 Trail through Morgan Creek Park and authorize the Director to sign the amendment – Project #2-20.**

Randy Burke reviewed a contract amendment with Shive-Hattery, Inc. for construction oversight for the Highway 100 Trail through Morgan Creek Park.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Emerson

To approve the contract amendment and authorize the Director to sign the amendment on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R6. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2021-3 and authorize staff to submit a funding application for COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails Program grant for reconstruction of a section of the Grant Wood Trail from Secrist Road to Paralta.**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2021-3 regarding a grant funding application for the COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails Program grant for reconstruction of a section of the Grant Wood Trail from Secrist Road to Paralta. Goemaat noted this funding came through with the COVID relief legislation and staff recommend submitting two applications for this funding source, covered in items R6 and R7. Hanson noted his preference for soft surface trails and noted approval for the bridge replacements. Randy Burke noted this as a next step to connect to Springville. Hanson asked about condition of the abutments. Randy Burke noted condition would be determined with full design of the project. Emerson asked if the budget estimates include new abutments for the bridge at Paralta. Randy Burke noted funding for abutment repair was included in the concept budget amount. Hanson asked if the project would include grubbing trees along the trail. Randy Burke noted there would be minimal grubbing needed due to so many trees having been removed after the derecho.

MOTION by Emersion, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2021-3 and authorize staff to submit the funding application on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R7. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2021-4 and authorize staff to submit a funding application for COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails Program grant for reconstruction of a section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail north of Urbana.**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2021-4 regarding a grant funding application for the COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails grant for reconstruction of a section of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail north of Urbana.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Emerson

To approve Resolution #2021-4 and authorize staff to submit the funding application on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R8. **Discuss and decide on resolution #2021-5 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for park entrance signs, Project #16-19.**

Randy Burke reviewed resolution #2021-5 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding park entrance signs for Monday, May 24th, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2021-5 setting the public hearing.

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

ITEM R9. **Discuss and decide regarding committing funding for the Highway 100 trail bridge (Biechler Bridge) pier review and concept development, Project 5-19.**

Randy Burke reviewed the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) Biechler Bridge planning and study grant project.

MOTION by Oleson, second by Emerson

To approve commitment of $70,000 in match funding for the planning project.

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

ITEM R10. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2021-6 and authorize staff to submit a funding application for a Community Project Funding assistance grant through Representative Hinson's office for construction of the Highway 100 Trail from Morgan Creek Park to Covington.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2021-6 regarding a funding application for a Community Project Funding assistance grant through Representative Hinson's office for construction of the Highway 100 Trail from Morgan Creek Park to Covington. Goemaat noted funding would be split across multiple jurisdictions.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2021-6 and to authorize staff to submit the funding request.

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

ITEM R11 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 reported on community outreach efforts, media interviews, Planting Forward Program with Monarch Research, Paddle Sport marketing, Oak Hickory newsletter, and Cedar Valley Nature Trail construction communications.
2. Updates:
   a. Law Enforcement Issues Update – Goemaat updated the Board on law enforcement related equipment and management policy updates. Hughes asked for information about new equipment being considered and how vehicles are equipped in relation to other county conservation departments. Goemaat discussed other counties and their related policies.
   b. Storage buildings at Morgan Creek and Wanatee Parks – Goemaat updated the Board on the rebuilding of the shops that were blown down from the derecho and the construction timeline.
   c. National Register of Historic Places nomination for Wickiup Hill through the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission – Goemaat updated the Board on this nomination process.
   d. Grant Wood Trail corridor acquisition update – Goemaat updated the Board on parcel acquisition to facilitate trail construction.
   e. Discuss scheduling joint meeting with Board of Supervisors – The Board discussed a joint meeting with the BOS at the July meeting. Board consensus was to hold the joint meeting on July 19^{th}.
   f. Decide on location for May Conservation Board meeting – Board consensus was to hold the May meeting at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center.
   g. Tour derecho damage at Wanatee Park – Kellogg led the Board on a tour of the derecho damage in the park after the formal agenda.

ITEM R12. **Public comment**

None

ITEM R13. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary