LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **June 27, 2022,** at Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
Steve Emerson, Hillary Hughes, Brent Oleson, George Kanz,
George Kanz was appointed acting secretary.

Board Members Absent
Cindy Burke

Staff Present
Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ted Doscher, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Dana Kellogg, Natural Resources Manager, Meredith Glynn, Office Coordinator

Others Present
Jerry Mahoney, David Wilson, Mary Clapp, Dennis Brant, Todd Happel, Paul Marshall, Julie Marshall, Julie Lucas.

Call To Order
President Hughes 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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve minutes of the May 23, 2022 monthly meeting

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List # 2022-12.
Claims and Transfer list #2022-12 involving claim #12-1377 through #12-1508

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

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

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #31-2022 - Monetary donation ($4,000) from Janice Hikiji for undesignated support of the Conservation Program.

ITEM C6. Authorize staff to complete the purchase a crawler/dozer w/winch and tractor per the amended FY23 equipment purchase plan.

ITEM C7. Capital Improvement Program updates

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discussion regarding the future development of the Grant Wood Trail Secrist Road to Paralta segment.

The Conservation Board took public comment and discussed the future development goals of the Grant Wood Trail east of Secrist Road. Gibbins reviewed history of the trail, including receiving the trail as a gift from the Linn County Trails Association. Gibbins reviewed current and upcoming projects from Waldo Rock Park to Secrist Road, as well as considerations under study for a trail connection to the City of Springville.

Mary Clapp submitted "reimagine the Grant Wood Trail". She added that a website has been started to "save the trail" and additionally submitted pictures to the board of trail usage. Gibbins responded to questions of why Wickiup Hill areas are not paved and why Grant Wood trail would be.

Jerry Mahoney said he has a disability and the trail gives him the opportunity to walk on a softer surface. He said people who come to park nearby come to walk, not to ride.

Julie Marshall said we need to keep the natural beauty along the trail. Since derecho, she and others go specifically to this trail because it is not paved. She said she does not want to go another 20 minutes to an "untouched" trail.

Judy Lucas complemented the maintenance crews who conduct maintenance along the trail. She noted drainage and surface is perfect, except in the spring and the trail where it is mowed will disturb significant wildflowers. She also said the trail is level, and the demand for bicycles is already met. She asked after 2005, how it was decided that these trails would be graveled and rocked. Hughes responded that grant opportunities often dictate the surface of the trail when a trail is developed. Kanz noted following strategic planning sessions, a goal that came out of the process was to help the communities connect via the trail system. Kanz said we are just starting to look into this Grant Wood Trail segment.

Dennis Brandt said he has never met anybody along the trail that wants it paved, and people that live in the area doesn't want the trail surface.

Member Emerson asked about a dual trail with grass surface alongside a hard surface. Lucas said they don't want one. Emerson said many people that aren't using the trail now, may use it once it is hard surfaced.

Member Oleson said even though he has heard from a lot of people that want the trail paved, the Board has not made up their mind which is why they want to proceed with the route study.

Clapp said there is a possibility the trail could be a National Landmark designation. She said in 100 years people may ask why this trail was paved in the first place.

Member Hughes noted there is significant investment and legal right-of-way when it comes to trail development on these areas that use to be part of the railway system.

Paul Marshall commented on the beauty of the trail as it is now.

Clapp said we all have different disabilities and many of us need a non-hard surfaced trail.

Hughes thanked the audience and encouraged them to visit several of our natural trails within the Linn County Conservation system.

Todd Happel from Anderson-Bogert introduced himself to the Board and speakers and noted there would be a future public input meeting for this trail study later this year.

No motion was made.

ITEM R3. **Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the playground at 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. The published notice of the public hearing was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Emerson

To close the public hearing.

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

ITEM R4. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-18, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the playground at Buffalo Creek Park, Project 26-21.**

Ted Doscher reviewed Resolution #2022-18, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the playground at Buffalo Creek Park, Project 26-21.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To adopt Resolution #2022-18 indicating that a public hearing was held and approving the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for the playground at Buffalo Creek Park, Project 26-21.

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

ITEM R5. **Discuss and decide on awarding a contract for purchase and installation of the playground at Buffalo Creek Park, Project 26-21 and authorizing the Director to sign the contract.**

Ted Doscher reviewed bids received for purchase and installation of the playground at Buffalo Creek Park, Project 26-21. The lone bid received was from Landscape Structures for $173,990.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To approve the bid by Landscape Structures and authorize the Director to sign the contract and staff to complete purchase of the playground for Project 26-21.

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

ITEM R6. **<u>Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Hoover Section overlay, Project 2-21A.</u>**

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 Cedar Valley Nature Trail Hoover Section overlay, Project 2-21A. The published notice of the public hearing was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

<u>MOTION</u> by Emerson, second by Kanz

To close the public hearing.

<u>VOTE</u>: aye: all present
nay: none
absent: Burke

ITEM R7. **<u>Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-19, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Hoover Section overlay, Project 2-21A.</u>**

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2022-19, approving the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Hoover Section overlay, Project 2-21A.

<u>MOTION</u> by Kanz, second by Emerson

To adopt Resolution #2022-19 indicating that a public hearing was held and approving the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Hoover Section overlay, Project 2-21A.

<u>VOTE</u>: aye: all present
nay: none
absent: Burke

ITEM R8. **Discuss and decide on awarding a contract for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Hoover Section overlay, Project 2-21A.**

Randy Burke reviewed bids received for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Hoover Section overlay, Project 2-21A. The only bid received was from Rathje Construction Co. for $113,801.50.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Emerson

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

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

ITEM R9. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-20 authorizing staff to submit a State Recreation Trails grant proposal for redevelopment of the Cedar Valley Trail north of Urbana.**

Doscher reviewed a draft application for a State Recreation Trails grant proposal for redevelopment of the Cedar Valley Trail north of Urbana

MOTION by Kanz, second by Emerson

To approve Resolution #2022-20 authorizing staff to submit a State Recreation Trails grant proposal.

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

ITEM R10. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-21 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.**

Doscher reviewed resolution #2022-21 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the improvements to Buffalo Creek Park, Project #26-21.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution #2022-21 setting the public hearing and authorizing staff to receive and open bids.

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

ITEM R11. **Discuss and decide regarding selecting a consultant to develop plans for the Morgan Creek Park lodge.**

Randy Burke reviewed results of the RFP process for the design and engineering of the Morgan Creek Park Lodge. One proposal was received from Design Dynamics Inc. for $225,000.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To approve the proposal by Design Dynamics Inc. for $225,000 and authorize the Director to sign the contract.

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

ITEM R12. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-22 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Pinicon Ridge dam modification, Project #19-19.**

Gibbins reviewed resolution #2022-22 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Pinicon Ridge dam modification, Project #19-19.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2022-22 setting the public hearing and authorizing staff to receive and open bids.

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

ITEM R13. **Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract to repair and modify the roof on the residential dwelling at Pinicon Ridge Park and authorize the Director to sign the contract.**

Gibbins reviewed a proposed contract with Darnell Construction to repair and modify the roof on the residential dwelling at Pinicon Ridge Park to eliminate condensation related water damage underneath the metal roof.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Emerson

To authorize the Director to sign a contract with Darnell Construction for roof repair and modification.

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

ITEM R14. **<u>Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Deputy Director to sign documents with the US Fish and Wildlife Service related to funding assistance for Pinicon Ridge Dam modification – Project #19-19</u>**

Gibbins reviewed a funding opportunity with the US Fish and Wildlife Service related to the Pinicon Ridge Dam modification project, Project #19-19.

<u>MOTION</u> by Emerson, second by Oleson

To authorize the Deputy Director to sign documents including a final agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service related to FWS Fish Passage funding for the Pinicon Ridge Dam project.

<u>VOTE</u>: aye: all present
nay: none
absent: Burke

ITEM R15. **<u>Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-23 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for hard surfacing parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project #6-22.</u>**

Doscher reviewed Resolution #2022-23 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for hard surfacing parking areas at Wanatee Park, Project #6-22. Kanz says he supports concrete for long term sustainability but will support asphalt due to current cost differential.

<u>MOTION</u> by Emerson, second by Oleson

To approve Resolution #2022-23 setting the public hearing and authorizing staff to receive and open bids.

<u>VOTE</u>: aye: all present
nay: none
absent: Burke

ITEM R16. **Discuss and decide on Resolution #2022-24 amending the Board's Rules and Regulations section 10 (add D) related to animals near park amenities, and section 28 regarding profanity and obscenity.**

Gibbins reviewed Resolution #2022-24 amending the Board's Rules and Regulations through the addition of section 10 (D) related to animals near park amenities, and amendment of section 28 regarding profanity and obscenity. Oleson expressed preference to delay the item for further review with staff.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Oleson

To postpone adoption of Resolution #2022-24 amending the Board's Rules and Regulations section 10 and 28 for future staff review.

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

ITEM R17. **Board member / staff reports – Board members and staff may report and/or discuss meetings or activities in which they have been involved.**

1. Staff reports
   a. Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach reported on various marketing, event and communications efforts.
      - Westside CR Rotary presentation with Randy Burke
      - Eastern Iowa Tourism Association phase out as part of Iowa Tourism strategic plan implementation

   b. Board Member Oleson reported on land that has been purchased by Linn County Secondary Roads for a new service location in Palo. Oleson would like the current district shop, located on three acres adjacent to Morgan Creek Park, to be considered for Conservation acquisition for potential use as a dog park.

2. Updates:
   a. Morgan Creek Park ribbon cutting – Gibbins reported on the ribbon cutting at Morgan Creek Park on June 3rd along with the positive use and comments received since the project was opened for use.
   b. ICCS Annual Conference – Gibbins reported on the upcoming ICCS conference opportunity. Oleson noted he would like to see a discussion topic at conference related to IWILL and local option sales tax funding of Conservation initiatives for county conservation boards across the state.

ITEM R18. **Public comment**

None.

ITEM R19. **Closed Session**

MOTION by Kanz, second by Emerson

To go into closed session at 1:46 PM for the purpose of discussing acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with section 21.5(l)(j) Code of Iowa.

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

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz

To go out of closed session at 1:59 PM.

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

ITEM R20. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 PM.
Ryan Schlader typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

SEAL

Board Secretary