



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, May 24, 2021, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **May 24, 2021**, at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Rd, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

John Hanson, Steve Emerson, Hillary Hughes, Brent Oleson, Cindy Burke
Member Burke joined the meeting by phone.

Board Members Absent

Brent Oleson

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Dana Kellogg, Natural Resources Manager, Shaun Reilly, Resource Manager; Kent Rector, Nature Center Manager

Others Present

Call To Order

Board President Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Hanson asked what project the security lights were for. Goemaat explained these were for replacement of aging, existing poles. Hanson asked if they were motion lights or dusk to dawn. Goemaat noted they were overnight lights on timers. Hughes asked whether the Urbana and W2W gifts were anticipated. Goemaat confirmed staff had indication from both organizations that donations might be coming.

Motion by Emerson, second by Hughes

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve the April 26, 2021 Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2021-11.

Claims and Transfer list #2021-11 involving claim #11-1026 through claim #11-1126.

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

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

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #21-2021 – Monetary donation (\$22,500) from Wings2Water for wetland development at Morgan Creek Park.
2. Gift #22 – 2021 – Monetary donation (\$900) from Monarch Research Project to support the 1,000-acre pollinator initiative.
3. Gift #23 – 2021 – Monetary donation (\$2,500) from NATPAKAM Bittersweet to support the Wilderness Trek Academy.
4. Gift #24 – 2021 – Monetary donation (\$15,000) from Urbana to support the Cedar Valley Trail paving project.

ITEM C6. Approve FY 2022 road seal coat program and authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract with L.L. Pelling for the seal coat applications.

ITEM C7. Accept proposal from Back Yard Trails for repairs to the Woodpecker Hill Trail at Pinicon Ridge Park.

ITEM C8. Approve contract to install 10 security lights and poles at Pinicon Ridge and Buffalo Creek Parks.

ITEM C9. Capital Improvement Program updates report.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for park entrance signs, Project #16-19.

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for park entrance signs, Project #16-19. The published notice of the public hearing was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Hughes

To close the public hearing.

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

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ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding a letter from the Conservation Board to provide input on the Tower Terrace Road extension project.

Goemaat reviewed the request for comment by Snyder and Associates for the Tower Terrace Road extension related to the intersection of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and safety concerns with the currently proposed at grade crossing design. Hughes recommended adding daily use numbers for the trail section in question. Cindy Burke asked if cost was a factor in the current at grade crossing concept. Randy Burke confirmed this was likely a part of the design consideration. Cindy Burke noted examples across the country and in Canada of road design consideration for safe passage of wildlife that could be implemented for the Tower Terrace Road project.

MOTION by Hughes, second by Burke

To authorize the Board President to sign a letter on behalf of the Board providing comment to Snyder and Associates related to the Tower Terrace Road extension project.

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

ITEM R6. Discuss and decide regarding the following access agreements for the Grant Wood Trail and authorize the Director to sign the agreements:

1. **Osborn**
2. **Carlson**

Goemaat reviewed access agreements for Osborn and Carlson in regard to future development of the Grant Wood Trail.

MOTION by Hughes, second by Emerson

To approve purchase agreements for Osborn and Carlson and authorize the Director to sign the agreements on behalf of the Board.

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

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ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on resolution #2021-9 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Wanatee Park tributary restoration, Project #26-19F.

Randy Burke reviewed resolution #2021-9 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Wanatee Park tributary restoration for Monday, June 28th, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson

To approve Resolution #2021-9 setting the public hearing.

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

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding adopting a revised Conservation Board gift policy.

Gibbins and Reilly discussed proposed revisions to the administrative gift policy regarding changes to physical naming of trees and amenities as well as guidelines for levels of donations and website based electronic gift recognition. Hughes asked if there would be any in-park recognition. Reilly confirmed the policy allows signage for up to 4 years for larger gifts and donations. Hughes asked if permanent recognition for donors would be available in the Morgan Creek Park Arboretum. Reilly confirmed that as proposed, arboretum related gifts meeting a certain gift level as outlined in the policy would be recognized through the online webpage for up to 4 years.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke

To approve the revised gift policy and transition plan as proposed.

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

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ITEM R9. Approve purchase of two trail structures for Woodpecker Trail at Pinicon Ridge Park.

Gibbins reviewed options for two creek crossings along the Woodpecker Trail at Pinicon Ridge Park to replace two multi-use pedestrian trail bridges that were damaged or destroyed by previous flooding and storms. Hanson noted the open box culvert is a well-used design for stream projects in other areas of the country. Hughes asked what type of footing design is used for this type of culvert. Randy Burke confirmed a concrete footer or metal plate could be used. Goemaat noted a general problem with material supply is causing the need to look farther into the future than normal for materials acquisition for projects.

MOTION by Hughes, second by Burke

To authorize staff to purchase two trail stream crossing structures for up to \$60,000 total cost.

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

ITEM R10 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, Morgan Creek Neighborhood Association meeting update for the Morgan Creek Park project,
2. Updates:
 - a. Cedar River Source Water Partnership – Goemaat noted the grant was approved and discussed Board match requirements should be met by projects in progress.
 - b. Morgan Creek Park Trail project. – Burke reported on progress on the trail project in Morgan Creek Park and the timeline for completion in early summer.
 - c. Name for Morgan Creek Park to Rock Island Preserve Trail – Goemaat discussed requests by the CMPO to find a permanent name for the HWY100 trail including various options. “Morgan Creek Trail” was discussed due to the trailhead and amenities in Morgan Creek Park and helping promote Morgan Creek Park.
 - d. Solar farm proposal update – Goemaat reported on upcoming public meetings to be held by Linn County on Solar Farm zoning. The Board discussed proposed design by NextEra in relation to native plant

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habitat compatibility. Consensus was to add the solar agreement with NextEra to the agenda for the June meeting.

- e. Morgan Creek Park neighborhood meeting held on May 19. – Schlader reported on an update for the Morgan Creek Park project to the Morgan Creek neighborhood association.
- f. Alliant Corridor title work – Goemaat noted upcoming title research to clarify clear title on the Alliant Corridor. Approximate cost is \$700 per abstract. 11 abstracts are needed.
- g. Wilderness Trek Academy and Cedar River Academy School of the Wild – Rector reported on recent and upcoming programming focused on getting students who had little past exposure to nature into natural environments.
- h. Board meeting: June Conservation Board meeting proposed at Morgan Creek Park – Board consensus was to hold the June 28th meeting at Morgan Creek Park.
- i. Joint meeting with Board of Supervisors on July 19/20 proposed at Wanatee Park – Board consensus was to plan the July meeting at Wanatee Park.
- j. Tour Wickiup Wandering Woods Playscape - Rector was available for a tour of the Wandering Woods Playscape after the meeting.

ITEM R11. Public comment

None

ITEM R12. Closed Session – The Conservation Board will go into closed session to discuss the acquisition of particular real estate in accordance with Section 21.5 (1)(j) of the Iowa Code.

The Board did not go into closed session.

ITEM R13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 PM.

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

SEAL



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary