

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **February 24, 2020**, at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Rd, Toddville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present

John Hanson, Cindy Burke, Hillary Hughes and George Kanz

Board Members Absent

Steve Emerson

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach;

Others Present

Call To Order

Conservation Board Vice-President Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve the January 27, 2020 Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2020-8.

Claims and Transfer list #2020-8 involving claim #8-520 through claim #8-573.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the January 2020 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the January 2020 activity report.

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts:

1. Gift #41-2020 –Monetary contribution (\$300) from Pamela Rue to purchase a Legacy Tree at Morgan Creek arboretum in honor of Gerald and Margene Rule.

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program updates report.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2020-1 naming the new shelter at Pinicon Ridge Park “Wapsi Bluff Shelter.”

Goemaat reviewed the proposed name for the new shelter at Pinicon Ridge Park.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To adopt Resolution #2020-1 naming the new shelter “Wapsi Bluff Shelter” at Pinicon Ridge Park.

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

ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on certain bond-funded projects.

Hillary Hughes joined the Board meeting at 12:12 PM.

Goemaat reviewed bond-funded projects and expenditure timelines regarding grant opportunities for future projects related to park improvements, trail development and water quality. Goemaat reviewed current expenditure status of bond groups 1 and 2 as well as potential projects for bond group 3 for consideration by the Board. Kanz discussed potential corporate donations for various types of park development projects. Burke asked if there will be signage for projects that communicate bond funding. Goemaat confirmed each project will receive a bond funding sign. Hughes and Kanz discussed collection of water quality data through instrument monitoring on bond related projects to illustrate water quality improvements gained. Goemaat indicated some projects like Morgan Creek wetlands might be monitored as flow allows through hand testing versus instrument monitoring. The Board discussed opportunities to increase diversity of hiring through habitat work programs and other department opportunities. Goemaat confirmed these work programs can promote diversity through opportunity for disadvantaged populations to learn about and engage in conservation related fields. Kanz discussed the Kids on Course model to help kids find purpose and direction for their future. Hughes asked what would be included in the proposed large camping cabin project at Pinicon Ridge Park. Goemaat and Randy Burke described it as a larger 12-14 person camping cabin. Kanz commented on the need for sustainable improvements such as hard surfacing roads and parking lots. Hughes mentioned the option of chalking lot spaces for temporary large events and suggested staff research costs of converting existing roads and parking lots to concrete to support sustainability goals. Goemaat suggested continued Board discussion on hard surfacing parking lots and roads and the timing related to current or future bonds.

No action was taken by the Board. Discussion only.

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ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on updating current Board policies – Series 3 Board Process including:

- 3-1 Board Membership**
- 3-2 Governance by the Linn County Conservation Board**
- 3-3 Relationship of the Board to the Public**

The Board reviewed Policies 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3. Goemaat noted the only proposed change being to Policy #3-1 to add “Director and/or” to the section related to orientation of new members.

MOTION by Hughes, second by Burke

To approve policies 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3, as proposed for immediate implementation with readings waived.

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

ITEM R5. 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 brochure and online fees updates, updating of the Abby Creek School brochure, wellness fair attendance at Mt. Mercy, department presentation at CR Green Drinks, and department marketing and educational videos.
- 2) Updates:
 - a. Squaw Creek name update – Goemaat reported on additional research suggestions toward the topic to bring to the Board at a later date.
 - b. Legislative update – Goemaat reported on the status of Iowa Water and Land Legacy Trust funding potential by the Governor and State legislature. Board consensus was to support Governor Reynolds Invest in Iowa Act.
 - c. Updated Annual Conservation Board agenda – Goemaat passed out the updated annual Conservation Board agenda.
 - d. ATV/UTV Linn County ordinance as it relates to county park roads – Goemaat reported on the open houses being sponsored by the Board of Supervisors for public input.
 - e. Cedar River Academy at Taylor Elementary – Sustainability Magnet School meeting update – Gibbins reported on a new partnership with the Cedar River Academy and department conservation education staff to promote strategic plan goals of access for all and sustainability through collaboration with the new sustainability magnet school at Taylor Elementary in Cedar Rapids.
 - f. Pinicon Ridge dam modification open house – March 24 – Gibbins reported on the scheduled public meeting to gather public input for Pinicon Ridge dam modification concept design. This meeting will be held at the Central City, City Hall on March 24th at 5:30 p.m.

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- g. Matsell Bridge Equestrian public input – Goemaat reviewed public input requesting future improvements to the campgrounds at Matsell Bridge Natural Area as an equestrian destination area.


ITEM R6. Public comment

None.

ITEM R7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Catherine Kastens typed the above minutes.



Recording Secretary

SEAL

Minutes approved via conference call
Board Secretary *Dennis E. Bemont*
3/23/2020