LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on June 24, 2019, at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Rd, Tددville, IA 52341.

Board Members Present
Steve Emerson, John Hanson and George Kanz

Board Members Absent
Hillary Hughes, Cindy Burke

Staff Present
Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach; Dana Kellogg, Natural Resources Manager

Others Present
Brent Oleson, Linn County Supervisor; Rob Peck, Design Dynamics;

Call To Order
Conservation Board President Emerson called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Public Comment
None.

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Hanson, second by Kantz

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve the May 20, 2019 Regular and June 6, 2019 Special Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2019-12.
Claims and Transfer list #2019-12 involving claim #12-644 through claim #12-772


ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts:
1. Gift #26-2019 – Good Earth Garden Club, monetary donation ($300), for use at Morgan Creek Park arboretum.
2. Gift #27-2019 – Iowa Master Naturalists, monetary donation ($100), for use at Wickiup Hill Learning Center in recognition of Gail Barels.
4. Gift #29-2019 – Pramit and Kristin Tamraker, monetary donation ($150), to purchase a tree for Morgan Creek Park in memory of Steve Goodson.
5. Gift #30-2019 – Faith Bible Church, monetary donation ($150), to purchase a tree for Morgan Creek Park in memory of Steve Goodson.
6. Gift #31-2019 – John Layton, donation of plants valued at $403.00, for use at Morgan Creek Park butterfly garden.
10. Gift #35-2019 – Alisa Ajango, monetary donation ($300), to purchase a tree for Morgan Creek Park arboretum in honor of Bradley Kent Ajango.
12. Gift #37-2019 – Monarch Research Project, monetary donation ($12,969.17) to purchase a batwing mower and herbicides for the 1,000-acre initiative.

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program update report.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director to sign a grant agreement with The Nature Conservancy retroactive to May 21, 2019 for funding the Morgan Creek Park wetlands.

Goemaat reviewed grant agreement details for funding by The Nature Conservancy for the Morgan Creek Park wetlands.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hanson

To authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute a grant agreement on behalf of the Board.

VOTE: aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hughes, Burke
ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2019-7, authorizing application for funding assistance from the State Recreational Trails grant program through the Iowa Department of Transportation for connecting a gap in the Grant Wood Trail, Project #05-14B.

Randy Burke discussed Resolution #2019-7, authorizing application for funding assistance from the State Recreational Trails grant program through the Iowa Department of Transportation for Grant Wood Trail project #05-14B.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hanson

To approve Resolution #2019-7 authorizing the Executive Director to submit an application to the State Recreation Trails grant program on behalf of the Board.

**Vote:**
- **aye:** all present
- **nay:** none
- **absent:** Hughes, Burke

ITEM R4. Discuss and decide on resolution #2019-8 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost concerning the Pinicon Ridge Park Overlook Shelter, Project #4-19.

Randy Burke, Rob Peck and Dennis Goemaat discussed project design changes, budget and additional funding options for the Pinicon Ridge Park Overlook Shelter, Project #4-19. Emerson asked about Bond funding category for the project. Kanz discussed his support for concrete paving for hard surface portions of the project. Randy Burke reviewed resolution #2019-8 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost concerning the Pinicon Ridge Park Overlook Shelter, Project #4-19.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hanson

To approve Resolution #2019-8 setting a public hearing for Monday, July 22nd, 2019 at 12:00 PM for project #4-19, Pinicon Ridge Park Overlook Shelter.

**Vote:**
- **aye:** all present
- **nay:** none
- **absent:** Hughes, Burke
ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director or Deputy Director to sign documents with the US Fish and Wildlife Service related to funding assistance for Pinicon Ridge Dam mitigation – Project #2-19.

Gibbins reviewed the agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service related to funding assistance for the Pinicon Ridge Dam mitigation – Project #2-19.

**Motion** by Hanson, second by Kanz

To authorize the Executive Director or Deputy Director to sign and execute documents with the US Fish & Wildlife Service related to the Pinicon Ridge dam modification on behalf of the Board.

**Vote:** aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hughes, Burke

ITEM R6. Discuss agreement regarding the commitment to ConnectCR for project support and timing of payment.

Goemaat reviewed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the commitment to ConnectCR for project support and timing of payment. Hanson commented that he would like to see “not including riprap” as language in the MOU to clarify that riprap is not eligible as a fundable element.

No action was taken. The Board concurred with MOU timeline and language.

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing Catherine Kastens to replace Amanda Bieber as a signatory on checks written on the NXT Bank account.

Gibbins reviewed the authorization of Catherine Kastens as a signatory on checks written on the NXT Bank account.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hanson

To authorize Catherine Kastens as a signatory on checks written on the NXT Bank account.

**Vote:** aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hughes, Burke
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ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding Resolution 2019-9 authorizing staff to submit application to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for funding Segment 2 of the Highway 100 Trail.

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution 2019-9 authorizing staff to submit application to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for funding Segment 2 of the Highway 100 Trail.

**Motion** by Hanson, second by Kanz

To approve Resolution 2019-9 authorizing the Executive Director to submit an application on behalf of the Board.

**Vote:** aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hughes, Burke

ITEM R9. Discuss and decide regarding Resolution 2019-10 authorizing staff to submit application to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for funding Segment 3 of the Highway 100 Trail.

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution 2019-10 authorizing staff to submit application to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for funding Segment 3 of the Highway 100 Trail.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hanson

To approve Resolution 2019-10 authorizing the Executive Director to submit an application on behalf of the Board.

**Vote:** aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hughes, Burke

ITEM R10. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director to sign a contract amendment with Snyder and Associates for engineering and design of wetlands on county-owned properties.

Dana Kellogg reviewed the contract amendment with Snyder and Associates for engineering and design of wetlands on county-owned properties.

**Motion** by Hanson, second by Kanz

To authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute the contract amendment with Snyder and Associates.

**Vote:** aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hughes, Burke
ITEM R11. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing the Director to sign a contract amendment with Snyder and Associates for engineering and design of wetlands at Squaw Creek Park.

Dana Kellogg reviewed the contract amendment with Snyder and Associates for engineering and design of wetlands at Squaw Creek Park.

Motion by Hanson, second by Kanz

To authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute the contract amendment with Snyder and Associates.

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

ITEM R12. Discuss and decide regarding Director performance review and compensation.

The Board discussed Director performance review and compensation.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hanson

To adjust the Executive Director annual salary to $129,000.

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

ITEM R13. Board Member and Staff Reports

1) Community Outreach/Marketing:

   a. Schlader reported on marketing activities including DNR Iowa Outdoors publication, Pinicon Ridge Park fishing clinic, Wickiup Hill summer camps, 99 Parks Promotion with Travel Iowa, and area user maps.

2) Updates:

   a. Algae growth in the Pinicon Ridge Park backwaters (Hanson) – Goemaat and Hanson discussed water circulation options and water testing of the Pinicon Ridge Park backwaters area.
   b. Strategic Planning Update (Gibbins) – Gibbins reviewed upcoming schedules and data gathering plan for continued strategic planning interviews, focus groups and surveys.
   c. Orlan Love prairie dedication – Gibbins updated the Board on the Orlan Love Prairie Dedication event on June 25th at Red Cedar Lodge.
   d. Goemaat noted the upcoming Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation 40th Anniversary celebration to be held at Board Member Cindy Burke’s residence on August 28th.
ITEM R14. Public comment
None.

ITEM R15. 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.

Motion by Kanz, second by Hanson

To go into closed session at 12:48 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition in accordance with section 21.5(1)(j) Code of Iowa.

Vote: aye: Emerson
      aye: Hanson
      aye: Kanz
      nay: none
      absent: Hughes, Burke

Motion by Kanz, second by Hanson

To go out of closed session at 12:51 PM.

Vote: aye: Emerson
      aye: Hanson
      aye: Kanz
      nay: none
      absent: Hughes, Burke
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ITEM R16. Adjourn

Motion by Kanz, second by Hanson

To adjourn the meeting at 12:52 PM

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

Daniel Gibbins typed the above minutes.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary