LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on September 28, 2020, at Wapsi Bluff Shelter, Pinicon Ridge Park, Central City, IA 52214.

Board Members Present
Steve Emerson, Hillary Hughes and George Kanz
Member Hughes initially joined the meeting by phone until later arriving in person.
Member Kanz was appointed acting secretary.

Board Members Absent
Cindy Burke; John Hanson

Staff Present
Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach Specialist; Aaron Batchelder, Resource Manager; Wapsipinicon District Staff; Dana Kellogg, Natural Resource Manager; Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Manager;

Others Present
Linn County Board of Supervisors: Ben Rogers, Stacey Walker, and Brent Oleson; Becki Shoop, Deputy Auditor; Todd Happel, Anderson-Bogert; Dan Biechler

Call To Order
Board President Emerson called the meeting to order at 10:36 AM

Public Comment
None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Kanz, second by Hughes

To approve the consent agenda.

Vote: aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hanson; Burke

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve the August 17, 2020 Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2021-3.
Claims and Transfer list #2021-3 involving claim #3-142 through claim #3-302.


ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the August 2020 activity report.
ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.
1. Gift #4-2021 – Monetary contribution ($50) from Christine Burian in memory of Ron Aschenbrenner.
2. Gift #5-2021 – Monetary donation ($25,000) from Wings2Water for water quality initiatives as part of the Morgan Creek redevelopment project.
3. Gift #6-2021 – Monetary donation ($300) from Jana Dibel for the Morgan Creek redevelopment project in honor of Kathy Schumacher.
4. Gift #7-2021 – Monetary donation ($15) from Nadene Roberts in memory of Ron Aschenbrenner.
5. Gift #8-2021 - Monetary donation ($5,000) from The Nature Conservancy, for the Wickiup Hill wetland restoration project.

ITEM C6. Capital Improvement Program updates report.

ITEM C7. Award a contract to Rathje Construction in the amount of $208,375 for Squaw Creek Park wetland/pond construction and authorize the Director to sign the contract, Project #26-19E.

Bids received for this project include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bidder</th>
<th>Bid Security</th>
<th>Total Bid (Lump Sum Price)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineer’s Estimate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$354,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peterson Contractors, Inc</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$359,836.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rathje Construction Co.</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td><strong>$208,375.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kloubee Earthworks</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
<td>$292,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tschiggfrie Excavating Co.</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$414,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kueter Equipment Company</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$386,581.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ITEM C8. Approve and adopt Resolution #2020-16 authorizing staff to submit a State Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant for paving a section of the Grant Wood Trail from Waldo’s Rock Park in Marion to Oxley Road.

ITEM C9. Approve and adopt Resolution #2020-17 authorizing staff to submit a Federal Recreation Trails grant for paving a section of the Grant Wood Trail from Waldo’s Rock Park in Marion to Oxley Road.

ITEM C10. Authorize the Board President or Director to sign a grant funding agreement with the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Board.

A. Approve a letter to the CAT Board guaranteeing match funding for the CAT grant.
ITEM C11. Authorize staff to electronically sign a contract with the IDOT and PCI in the amount of $1,838,821 for paving the Cedar Valley Trail from Center Point through Urbana.

Bids received for this project include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bidder Name</th>
<th>Bid Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peterson Contractors Inc.</td>
<td>$1,838,821.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelling, LL. Co.</td>
<td>$1,854,997.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Grade Excavating, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,961,698.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Concrete</td>
<td>$2,041,869.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vieth Construction Corporation</td>
<td>$2,058,471.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pire-Tobin Construction, Inc.</td>
<td>$2,185,804.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rathje Construction Co.</td>
<td>$2,234,918.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boomerang Corp.</td>
<td>$2,310,317.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Public hearing regarding the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for a contract to erect the shelter and other components of the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project, Project #3-19.

The Conservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with Iowa law regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for a contract to erect the shelter and other components of the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project, Project #3-19. The published notice of the public hearing was presented. No written or oral comments or objections were received.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hughes

To close the public hearing.

VOTE: aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hanson; Burke
ITEM R3.  Discuss and decide on Resolution #2020-15, approval of the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs for a contract to erect the shelter and other components of the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project, Project #3-19.

Randy Burke reviewed the plans and specifications, form of contract and estimated construction costs concerning a contract to erect the shelter and other components of the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project, Project #3-19.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hughes

To adopt Resolution #2020-15 indicating that a public hearing was held and approving the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for a contract to erect the shelter and other components of the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project, Project #3-19, and to authorize staff to receive and open bids.

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

ITEM R4.  Discuss and decide regarding approving a contract amendment with Anderson Bogert Engineers for final design and construction document development for the Grant Wood Trail – Project #5-14B.

Randy Burke reviewed a contract amendment with Anderson Bogert Engineers for final design and construction document development for the Grant Wood Trail – Project #5-14B.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hughes

To approve the contract amendment with Anderson Bogert Engineers for final design and construction document development for the Grant Wood Trail – Project #5-14B and authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute the contract amendment on behalf of the Board.

VOTE:  aye; all present
       nay; none
       absent: Hanson; Burke
ITEM R5. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2020-18 setting the fee for reserving the Wapsi Bluff Shelter.

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2020-18 setting the fee for reserving the Wapsi Bluff Shelter.

Hughes joined the meeting in person at 10:42 AM.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hughes

To approve Resolution #2020-18 setting the fee for reserving the Wapsi Bluff Shelter.

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

ITEM R6. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2020-19 renaming Squaw Creek Park to Wanatee Park.

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2020-19 renaming Squaw Creek Park to Wanatee Park.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hughes

To approve Resolution #2020-19 renaming Squaw Creek Park to Wanatee Park.

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

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2020-20 in support of renaming Squaw Creek to Wanatee Creek.

Goemaat reviewed Resolution #2020-20 in support of renaming Squaw Creek to Wanatee Creek.

MOTION by Hughes, second Kanz

To approve Resolution #2020-20 in support of renaming Squaw Creek to Wanatee Creek.

VOTE: aye; all present
nay; none
absent: Hanson; Burke
ITEM R8. Discuss and decide regarding a tree planting bond project and authorizing this project be forwarded to the Linn County Water and Land Legacy Review Board.

Gibbins reviewed the draft tree canopy restoration bond project. Hughes asked if the project would allow bond funding support for public lands only. Goemaat indicated a request for review by the bond attorney will clarify if this project can extend bond funding to partnerships that include private land.

MOTION by Kanz, second Hughes

To approve the tree canopy replacement bond project and authorize staff to forward to the Linn County Water and Land Legacy Review Board.

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

ITEM R9. 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: Schlader reported on monthly marketing and communications updates.

2) Updates:
   a. Derecho cleanup and response update. Gibbins and Goemaat reported on storm cleanup activities since the derecho event and operations to deal with the debris grindings. Hughes encouraged staff to keep working on partnerships for sustainable use. Kanz asked about debris that was piled on the agricultural lease area of the Dows addition to Wanatee Park. Goemaat confirmed plans for the contractor to remove.
   b. October Conservation Board meeting date (October 26) and location – Goemaat suggested holding the October Board meeting at Wanatee Park at a lodge on October 26. The Board concurred. Goemaat also suggested the December 21st Board meeting be held at the Public Services Center due to the budget review meeting with the Supervisors scheduled for 1:30 PM. The Board concurred.

ITEM R10. Public comment

None.
ITEM R11. 11:00 AM – Meeting with the Linn County Board of Supervisors to discuss and tour areas of mutual interest including:

The meeting with the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the Linn County Conservation Board included the following discussion topics.

a) Discuss upcoming bond projects - Goemaat reviewed bond #3 proposed projects and opened discussion between boards. Supervisor Rogers discussed the timing of the bond letting for March of 2021 due to budget reimbursement by FEMA. Supervisor Oleson asked when the dam project would occur and if it was included in proposed bond #3 projects. Goemaat confirmed it is in the planning for Bond #3 as the department seeks grants. Oleson asked for a review of the tree canopy replacement project. Goemaat discussed the project and its flexibility to utilize bonds to plant, match grants, and partner with other groups to promote community tree replanting. Supervisor Walker asked how Conservation will be able to work with the Sustainability Program Manager on this work. Marcus and Goemaat confirmed partnering in multiple ways to promote future tree restoration work in the community. Walker asked about the Best Management (BMP) bond projects. Goemaat discussed details for the Best Management Projects for water quality in Pinicon Ridge Park.

b) Discuss renaming Squaw Creek & Squaw Creek Park – Goemaat discussed the process of renaming the creek to Wanatee creek. Goemaat recommended the BOS submit the creek renaming application if the BOS concurred due to the creek lying within the jurisdiction of Linn County. Supervisor Rogers commented the BOS would be happy to submit the application and was already working on the process for road name changes regarding the topic. Goemaat noted he would work with BOS staff to submit the application as an item on an upcoming BOS meeting.

c) Alliant Corridor discussion – Goemaat discussed derecho cleanup needs on the Alliant utility corridor in discussion for County acquisition. Supervisor Walker asked how this would impact the original discussion. Supervisor Oleson noted the cost of the corridor would be reduced due to debris cleanup that would remain. Oleson noted access issues could make cleanup difficult. Hughes asked about the current state of the acquisition discussion and noted if Linn County acquires the corridor, would the Board be obligated to remove derecho debris. Goemaat noted portions or the corridor does not include utility lines and Alliant would likely not address these areas. Oleson noted the need for legal discussion on obligations should the County acquire title. Walker noted we would incur costs of any debris remaining. Oleson noted fence obligations should be investigated. Goemaat noted staff were exploring that obligation should it come to the county. Oleson noted complexity of the corridor east of Highway 13 would make future trail development difficult. Goemaat noted there might be too many workarounds to connect the old corridor to a significant extent. Oleson noted the Cedar Rapids section has a current plan for their portion through MPO funding, but the county portion does not. Goemaat noted connection to the trail planned through Wanatee Park at Mt. Vernon would be the priority for Conservation should the county acquire a portion of the utility corridor from Alliant.
The meeting included a bus tour of recent and future projects in Pinicon Ridge Park and the Pinicon Ridge Park Dam at the following locations.

d) Riverside playground – During the tour, Goemaat described amenity design including ADA benefits of the new restroom, playground and walkways. Kanz commended the donor sign showing donor input to the project and complimented the picnic shelters.

e) Group camp – During the tour, Goemaat discussed concept plans to relocate the group camp site to a future new campground north of the river, but noted considerations such as patron interest in the current area and use as future water trail camping. Hughes asked about reservation demand. Goemaat and Batchelder discussed seasonal use and demand including tent and RV camping.

f) Central City dam – Gibbins and Goemaat reviewed the concept dam modification design. Oleson noted the potential for increased tourism and recreation to the Wapsipinicon River and local area with completion of the project. Hughes related the timeline of planning and public input through a virtual online open house to gather public input, as well as the history of Federal funding before and after the Coggon dam project.

g) Plains and Flying Squirrel Campgrounds – During the tour, Goemaat discussed flooding concerns of the lower loops and the benefit of building a new campground out of the floodplain. Goemaat reviewed campground fees and the picnic table replacement program. Oleson noted the increase in invasive species in the park. Goemaat discussed expansion plans at Plains campground including a potential large cabin and additional camping pads. Goemaat also reviewed the newly constructed new shower house and its benefits to improved accessibility and family shower room options. Batchelder discussed how the new shower house tornado shelter was used to shelter campers during the August derecho. The tour visited a reservation cabin to view the interior and layout.

h) Potential campground expansion area – During the tour, Goemaat reviewed the location of a potential new campground as illustrated on the park master plan. The tour also stopped to view and discuss forestry equipment used to manage invasive vines and brush in woodlands or during conversion of a site to native prairie.

ITEM R12. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 PM

Catherine Kastens typed the above minutes.

[Signatures]

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary