

**LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017, BOARD MEETING**

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **Monday, January 23, 2017**, at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, Iowa.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

George Kanz, Cindy Burke, Steve Emerson, and John Hanson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Hillary Hughes

STAFF PRESENT

Dan Biechler, Director; Dennis Goemaat, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; and Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach

OTHERS PRESENT

Linn County Supervisor John Harris; Dennis and Linda Schlicht, Center Point Community Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Emerson called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

OATH OF OFFICE – NEW BOARD APPOINTMENT – JOHN HANSON

Emerson administered the Oath of Office to John Hanson from Marion who was recently appointed to the Conservation Board by the Linn County Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Hanson, second by Kanz.

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

ITEM C2. APPROVE CLAIMS AND EXPENDITURES – CLAIMS LIST #2017-7

Claims and Transfer list #2017-7 involving claim #7-329 through claim #7-381.

ITEM C3. RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE DECEMBER 2016 FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1/23/17

ITEM C4. RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE DECEMBER 2016 ACTIVITY REPORT

ITEM C5. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

1. Gift #24-2017, Orlan Love – monetary donation (\$140) to leverage with Linn County Water & Land Legacy bond funds.
2. Gift #25-2017, Laverne & Audrey Busse Foundation – monetary donation (\$414) undesignated gift towards Wickiup Hill.
3. Gift #26-2017, Iowa Gourd Society – monetary donation (\$200) for use for the Wickiup Hill Learning Center.
4. Gift #27-2017, Carolyn Cleveland – monetary donations (\$35) for use at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center.
5. Gift #28-2017, Marjorie Henderson – monetary donation (\$5,000) toward the outdoor nature playscape project at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center.

ITEM R2. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON A PROPOSAL/REQUEST FROM THE CENTER POINT COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR FUTURE PLACEMENT OF AN 1850s LOG CABIN NEAR THE DEPOT BUILDING ALONG THE CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL IN CENTER POINT.

Dennis and Linda Schlicht met with the Board to discuss relocating an historic settler cabin in Center Point to a location near the former railroad depot along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. This location would allow the cabin to be available to the public when the Historical Society museum is open for public use. A preliminary site plan was presented.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke.

To support this in concept by allowing the cabin to be relocated to a location near the Center Point Depot on the Cedar Valley Nature trail property subject to an agreement being developed between the Center Point Community Historical Society and the Conservation Board regarding ownership, maintenance and other pertinent matters.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1/23/17

ITEM R3. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LOW-HEAD DAM PUBLIC HAZARD PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION CONCERNING THE BUFFALO CREEK PARK DAM MITIGATION, PROJECT #8-14.

Goemaat reviewed the Low-Head Dam Mitigation grant application with the Board.

MOTION by Hanson, second by Burke.

To approve the grant application and authorize staff to submit the application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

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

ITEM R4. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SHIVE HATTERY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SIGN AND WAYFINDING DESIGN PROGRAM FOR LINN COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION AREAS

Goemaat updated the Board concerning a proposed professional services contract with Shive-Hattery Architecture and Engineering to develop sign design, plans and specifications for the county parks. This project is an extension of the recently completed master planning work.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz.

To approve the professional services contract with Shive-Hattery and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1/23/17

ITEM R5. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON STAFF RECOMMENDATION REGARDING BID RECEIVED AND HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT CONCERNING THE RED CEDAR MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION, PROJECT #6-15.

Randy Burke reviewed a memo with the Board concerning the mountain bike trail at Squaw Creek Park. Staff reviewed the bid with the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association, YTT Design & Engineering, the Iowa Department of Transportation and Dirt Dojo in an attempt to reduce costs of this project. The contractor agreed to remove certain items from the bid. A change order will be issued to modify the bid and adjust the total out-of-pocket cost of the project to \$79,625.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke.

To accept the bid and associated change order to reduce the contract amount to \$79,625 and to approve the contract with Dirt Dojo for construction of the mountain bike trail construction at Squaw Creek Park and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract and associated change order.

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

ITEM R6. LINN COUNTY WATER AND LAND LEGACY BOND – DISCUSS MATTERS RELATED TO THE LCWLL BOND INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. January 4, 2017 meeting with water quality related partner organizations – Goemaat reported concerning the meeting held with potential water quality partners on January 4th . Approximately 30 people attended representing 10 to 12 organizations. The meeting was very productive with many good ideas being shared concerning projects and potential funding sources. A common theme was that it will take extended time to put together projects and obtain grant funding to leverage with bond funds.
2. Potential Bond funded projects – Biechler discussed his efforts to start to develop a preliminary draft strategic implementation plan. He will continue to work on this preliminary DRAFT plan and present it to the Board at the February meeting.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1/23/17

ITEM R7. BOARD MEMBER/STAFF REPORTS

1. Fish Habitat Grant Award #2 (\$50,000) concerning the Buffalo Creek Park dam removal and rock arch rapids construction, Project #8-14. Goemaat informed the Board of this grant award.
2. FY18 Conservation Board Budget presentation to the Linn County Board of Supervisors – Biechler updated the Board concerning the budget presentation. County offices closed due to inclement weather on January 16. The budget presentation was made to the Board of Supervisors on January 18. The Board of Supervisors approved the FY18 Conservation Board budget. Accolades were given to the Conservation staff for a good budget presentation – one that could be used by other county departments as a model for budget presentations.

ITEM R8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017

Biechler commented that in recent years Board officers have been selected by a rotation.

MOTION by Hanson, second by Burke.

To waive the Board’s current policy and procedures concerning the 2017 election of officers and approve the slate of officers as follows:

Hughes – President
Emerson – Vice-President
Burke - Secretary

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

ITEM R9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

ITEM R10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Amanda Bieber typed the above minutes.

SEAL

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary