

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **Monday, March 26, 2018**, at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Rd, Toddville, Iowa.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Joe Matlander, Ament Design; Wally Taylor; Chris Nelson, Mickena Guillaume, Shive-Hattery; Les Beck, Linn County Planning and Development; Keisha Billings, City of Marion; Rob Beck, Design Dynamics.

ITEM 1. CLOSED SESSION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE.

The Conservation Board went into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5(1j) to discuss the purchase of real estate.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz.

To go into closed session at 11:05 PM

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

Member Hanson joined the closed session in progress.

President Hughes reported that the Board is out of closed session at 11:42.

The closed session was tape recorded according to Iowa law.

Vice President Emerson joined the meeting at 12:00 noon

CALL TO ORDER

Conservation Board President Hughes called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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ITEM R1. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke.

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2018 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

**ITEM C2. APPROVE CLAIMS AND EXPENDITURES – CLAIMS LIST #2018-9
Claims and Transfer list #2018-9 involving claim #9-510 through claim #9-567.**

ITEM C3. RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE FEBRUARY 2018 FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORT

ITEM C4. RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE FEBRUARY 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT

ITEM C5. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

1. Gift #27-2018 – Amy Jorgensen, monetary donation (\$50) toward the Wandering Woods nature playscape at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center.

ITEM C6. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. DISCUSS AND DECIDE REGARDING ACCEPTING AND APPROVING A TRAIL ACCESS EASEMENT FROM VICTOR AND PATRICIA KLOPFENSTEIN FOR THE GRANT WOOD TRAIL AND AUTHORIZING THE BOARD PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE EASEMENT

Goemaat reviewed the trail access easement for a segment of the Grant Wood Trail from Victor and Patricia Klopfenstein with the Board.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Hanson

To accept and approve a trail access easement.

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

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ITEM R3. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON APPROVING CONTRACT WITH TERRACON FOR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE EAST BLUE CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, PROJECT #10-12.

Randy Burke reviewed the contract with Terracon for geotechnical services for the east Blue Creek Bridge project.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Emerson.

To approve the agreement and authorize the Director to sign on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R4. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS CONCERNING THE RESTROOM AND PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AT PINICON RIDGE PARK, PROJECT #38-18.

President Hughes opened the public hearing at 12:32 PM. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral objections were received.

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz.

To close the public hearing.

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

ITEM R5. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON RESOLUTION 2018-13, APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATED COST FOR THE RESTROOM AND PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AT PINICON RIDGE PARK, PROJECT #38-18.

Randy Burke presented an overview of project #39-18 and Resolution #2018-13 to the Board.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Burke.

To approve and adopt resolution #2018-13.

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

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ITEM R6. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON RESOLUTION #2018-15 SETTING DATE AND TIME FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATED COST CONCERNING THE PLAINS CAMPGROUND SHOWER AND STORM SHELTER AT PINICON RIDGE PARK, PROJECT #17-05.

Randy Burke presented an overview of project 17-05 and Resolution #2018-15 to the Board.

MOTION by Burke, second by Emerson.

To approve and adopt resolution #2018-15.

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

ITEM R7. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PLANS AND SOECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS CONCERNING THE GRANT WOOD TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND SURFACING, PROJECT #05-14A.

President Hughes opened the public hearing at 12:35 PM. Proof of publication was presented. No written or oral objections were received.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke.

To close the public hearing.

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

ITEM R8. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON RESOLUTION #2018-14 APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATED COST FOR THE GRANT WOOD TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND RESURFACING, PROJECT #05-14A.

Randy Burke presented an overview of project 17-05 and Resolution #2018-14 to the Board.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke.

To approve and adopt Resolution 2018-14.

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

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ITEM R9. DISCUSS AND DECIDE REGARDING THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION REQUEST TO THE CITY OF MARION REGARDING SQUAW CREEK PARK.

The Conservation Board met with the Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed annexation of Squaw Creek Park into Marion. Goemaat reviewed a memo regarding staff questions related to the potential annexation.

Discussion:

- Kanz requested that the city explain why annexation is beneficial to Marion.
- Hughes asked what other avenues have been explored.
- Oleson advised he's had discussions keeping in mind future growth for Cedar Rapids and Marion. Oleson believes it is better to be pro-active and address these issues of growth. This way the county can address future concerns now and develop a long-term agreement. In visiting with Holloway landowners, they are supportive. There are some projects involving Marion that would make the process easier, such as the water tower, infiltration wetland, etc.
- Emerson asked about the legalities regarding building and permitting.
- Les Beck advised that there is a 28E agreement with the city of Cedar Rapids related to issuing building permits. It is possible to develop a similar agreement with Marion. Absent an agreement, county buildings would fall under Marion jurisdiction.
- Hughes asked how much of the park would be included in an annexation.
- Kanz stated that his concern is the unknowns regarding the future.
- Hughes asked what other avenues have been explored.
- Oleson advised there are some other land areas near the park that could have future acquisition potential.
- Houser asked what Marion's plan is, and if the Linn County Conservation Board land be annexed without Conservation Board consent.
- Kanz asked what has Marion done in examining this land for future use.
- Hughes stated she didn't think there has been enough planning, and action taken here will impact other parks.
- Oleson advised action will be taken soon, as this is a priority.
- Houser asked why this is moving forward so quickly, he is not convinced that annexation is the way to go.
- Oleson stated that doing nothing is the wrong way to go. Morgan Creek was cited as an example of failure to have an agreement in place.
- Emerson stated that it would be nice to see what the benefits are for the county and for Marion.
- Hughes suggested a working group to discuss issues.
- A working group will be created, Kanz and Burke will sit on that group.

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ITEM R10. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON APPROVING THE ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT WITH DESIGN DYNAMICS FOR DESIGN, BIDDING, AND ADMINISTRATION FOR PINICON RIDGE PARK OVERLOOK SHELTER, PROJECT #04-19.

Randy Burke and Rob Peck reviewed the proposed contract with Design Dynamics for design, bidding, and administration for the Pinicon Ridge Park overlook shelter. Hughes had questions regarding the design for the deck. Any revision in the design are included in the fees. Some of the modification of the design has taken place. Peck will provide a couple of design options. Hughes asked when the Board will review the options. Options will be presented to the Board in the next couple of months.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz.

To approve the contract and authorize the Director to sign on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R11. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON SELECTION AND AWARD OF CONTRACT CONCERNING A CONSULTANT FOR THE HIGHWAY 100 PHASE 1 DESIGN AND ENGINEERING, PROJECT #8-19. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE SELECTED CONSULTANT ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Randy Burke reviewed a memo with the Board related to the proposals received for design of the Highway 100 Trail Phase 1. Staff recommendation is to award the design contract to the low cost proposal submitted by Ament Design.

MOTION by Emerson, second by Kanz.

To award the Highway 100 Trail Phase 1 design contract to Ament Design and authorize the Director to sign on behalf of the Board.

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

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ITEM R12. DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON FORWARDING CERTAIN LINN COUNTY WATER AND LAND LEGACY PROJECTS TO THE LINN COUNTY WATER AND LAND LEGACY BOND REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Goemaat reviewed a memo with the Board outlining the anticipated timeline for issuing bonds for Linn County Water and Land Legacy projects. Five additional projects were reviewed to be forwarded to the Linn County Water and Land Legacy Review Board.

Projects to be forwarded include:

Drinking water and well closures at Pinicon Ridge Park

Paris Natural Area land acquisition

Morgan Creek Park land acquisition

Show house and storm shelter at Pinicon Ridge Park Plains Campground

Wapsipinicon River Scenic Overlook at Pinicon Ridge Park

MOTION by Burke, second by Hanson.

To approve forwarding the additional bond projects to the Linn County Water and Land Legacy Review Board.

VOTE: aye; all present

nay; none

absent; none

ITEM R13. BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF REPORTS

Hanson reported that he has now visited all Linn County Conservation Board properties.

Burke asked if the Board would be interested in 170 acres near Matsell Bridge Natural Area that may be coming up for sale. This land will be considered when it is placed on the market.

ITEM R17. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Matlander, Ament Engineering thanked the Board for awarding the Highway 100 project to Ament Engineering and he is looking forward to working with the Board and staff.

ITEM R18. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Amanda Bieber typed the above minutes.

SEAL

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary