

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **May 20, 2019**, at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Rd, Toddville, IA 52341.

**Board Members Present**

Hillary Hughes, John Hanson and George Kanz

**Board Members Absent**

Cindy Burke, Steve Emerson

**Staff Present**

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

**Others Present**

None

**Call To Order**

Conservation Board Secretary Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

**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: Burke, Emerson

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

**ITEM C1. Approve the April 22, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2019-11.**

Claims and Transfer list #2019-11 involving claim #11-583 through claim #11-643

**ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the April 2019 financial/budget report.**

**ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the April 2019 activity report.**

**ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts:**

1. Gift #25-2019 – Monetary contribution (\$435) from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation – Anderson Family Donor Advised Fund for easement monitoring.

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**ITEM C6. Approve FY 2020 road seal coat program and authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract with L.L. Pelling for the FY 2020 seal coat applications.**

**ITEM C7. Approve purchase of a batwing mower from the FY19 equipment budget.**

**ITEM C8. Capital Improvement Program updates report.**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**ITEM R2. Discuss and decide regarding selection of WHKS for consulting and planning for the Pinicon Ridge Park low head dam modification project and authorize the Board President to sign the contract.**

Gibbins and Kanz reported on the selection process and recommendation to award the design contract for the Pinicon Ridge Park low head dam modification project to WHKS for \$115,000.

**MOTION** by Kanz, second by Hughes

To authorize the Board President to sign a contract with WHKS on behalf of the Board.

**VOTE:** aye; all present  
nay; none  
absent: Burke, Emerson

**ITEM R3. Discuss and decide regarding a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant agreement for wetland construction at Buffalo Creek Natural Area and Matsell Bridge Natural Area and authorize the Board President to sign the agreement.**

Goemaat reviewed the North American Wetland Conservation Act grant agreement for wetland construction at Buffalo Creek Natural Area and Matsell Bridge Natural Area;

**Motion** by Hughes, second by Kanz

To authorize the Board President to sign the grant agreement with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. on behalf of the Board

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

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**ITEM R4. Discuss and decide regarding a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant agreement for wetland construction at Wickiup Hill Natural Area and authorize the Board President to sign the agreement**

Goemaat reviewed the North American Wetland Conservation Act grant agreement for wetland construction at Wickiup Hill Natural Area.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hughes

To authorize the Board President to sign the grant agreement with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. on behalf of the Board

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

**ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding approving an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program for funding the Highway 100 Trail from 42<sup>nd</sup> Street NE to the Cedar River and authorize the Board President to sign the agreement.**

Randy Burke reviewed the agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program for funding the Highway 100 Trail from 42nd Street NE to the Cedar River.

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hughes

To authorize the Board President to sign the agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation on behalf of the Board.

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

**ITEM R6. Discuss Director performance evaluation and compensation review process.**

Goemaat and the Board discussed the 2019 performance evaluation and compensation review process. An electronic, fillable form evaluation will be distributed to Board members for completion. Individual members will complete and return the evaluation forms. The results will be compiled and reviewed at the June Conservation Board meeting.

No action was taken.

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**ITEM R7. Board Member and Staff Reports**

- 1) Community Outreach/Marketing:
  - a. Schlader reported on marketing activities with Marion Rotary, Good Earth Garden Club, updating brochures, and grant writing efforts.
- 2) Updates:
  - a. Trail requests for proposals for professional services: Randy Burke updated the Board on the following trail planning efforts and funding status.
    1. Highway 100 Trail
    2. Dows-Maniti Trail
  - b. Strategic Planning Update – Gibbins reported on the initial meetings and upcoming tentative schedule for meetings and retreat with the Institute for Conservation Leadership.
  - c. Grants – Morgan Creek Park Development
    1. LAWCON - \$150,000 – Schlader updated the Board on the awarded LAWCON grant of \$150,000.
    2. Community Attraction and Tourism - \$500,000 request – Gibbins reported on the progress of the CAT application by staff working with Tritle Consulting.
    3. Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy – RISE – Goemaat reported on staff review of the RISE grant application requirements.
    4. Friends fundraising (Gibbins) – Gibbins reported on the fundraising progress for the Morgan Creek Phase 1 project in collaboration with the Friends of Linn County Conservation.
  - d. Hiawatha dog park (Gibbins) – Gibbins updated the Board on Hiawatha’s progress on dog park development at the Boyson Road Trailhead.
  - e. Director Updates: Goemaat reported on local water quality efforts, area land leases, Cedar Valley Nature Trail diesel spill monitoring, and staff hiring processes.

**ITEM R8. Public comment**  
None.

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**ITEM R9. Adjourn**

**Motion** by Kanz, second by Hughes.

To adjourn the meeting at 1:08 PM

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

Amanda Bieber typed the above minutes.



Recording Secretary



Board Secretary

SEAL