



LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020, BOARD MEETING

The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **July 20, 2020**, at Meadowlark Shelter, Squaw Creek County Park, Marion, IA 52302.

Board Members Present

John Hanson, Cindy Burke, Hillary Hughes and George Kanz
Cindy Burke and Hillary Hughes joined the meeting by phone.
George Kanz was appointed acting secretary.

Board Members Absent

Steve Emerson

Staff Present

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Jason Baumann, Resource Manager; Landon Barnes, Resource Technician

Others Present

Call To Order

Board Vice President Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

Public Comment

None

ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda

Motion by Burke, second by Hughes

To approve the consent agenda.

Vote: aye; all present
 nay; none
 absent: Emerson

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

ITEM C1. Approve the June 22, 2020 Monthly Meeting Minutes

ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2021-1.

Claims and Transfer list #2021-1 involving claim #12-1091 through claim #1-67.

ITEM C3. Receive and place on file the June 2020 financial/budget report.

ITEM C4. Receive and place on file the June 2020 activity report.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7/20/2020

ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.

1. Gift #47-2020 – Monetary donation (\$1,200) from Mark and Erin Churchill for a memorial bench for Molly.
2. Gift #48-2020 – Monetary contribution (\$300) from Diane Reilly for a Legacy Tree at Morgan Creek Park.
3. Gift #1-2021 – Monetary contribution (\$50) from Steve Schrader for undesignated support.
4. Gift #2-2021 – Monetary contribution (\$5,000) from ITC Midwest for support of the Morgan Creek park redevelopment project.

ITEM C6. Authorize staff to purchase tables for the Wapsi Bluff Shelter at Pinicon Ridge Park.

ITEM C7. Capital Improvement Program updates report.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM R2. Discuss and decide on resolution #2020-8 setting date and time for the public hearing regarding the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for pond construction at Squaw Creek Park, Project #26-19E.

Randy Burke reviewed Resolution #2020-8 setting the date and time for the public hearing regarding pond construction at Squaw Creek Park for Monday, August 17, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2020-8 setting the public hearing.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7/20/2020

- ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on authorizing staff to place orders for the following items related to the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project:**
a) A Cedar Forest Products shelter kit and;
b) Three Huffcut restrooms.

Randy Burke reviewed orders for Cedar Forest Products shelter and three Huffcut restrooms for the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project. 3 restrooms will cost \$214,000 and the Cedar Forest Products shelter will cost \$163,478. Randy Burke confirmed the restroom manufacturer is Huffcut Concrete Company. Huffcut has become a design standard due to durability and low maintenance construction.

MOTION by Burke, second by Hughes

To authorize staff to sign purchase orders and place orders for these components of the Morgan Creek Park redevelopment project.

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

- ITEM R4. Discuss and decide regarding awarding a contract for repairs to a culvert on the Hoover segment of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail near Ely and authorizing the Director to sign the contract.**

Randy Burke reviewed the contract for repairs to a culvert on the Hoover segment of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail near Ely. Two bids were received for the project including Rathje Construction Co. at \$39,800 and Borst Bros. Construction Co. with the apparent low bid of \$35,590.

MOTION by Kanz, second by Burke

To approve the contract with Borst Bros. Construction Co. and authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7/20/2020

ITEM R5. Discuss and decide regarding authorizing staff to sign a contract with Jim Schroeder Construction for the Morgan Creek Park trail project, Project 2-20.

Randy Burke reviewed the contract with Jim Schroeder Construction for the Morgan Creek Park trail project. This project bid was let by the IDOT and awarded to Jim Schroeder Construction for \$1,098,467.42

MOTION by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve the contract with Jim Schroeder Construction for the Morgan Creek Park trail project and authorize staff to sign and execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R6. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2020-9 authorizing staff to submit a planning grant proposal to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Highway 100 Cedar River bridge (Biechler Bridge).

Randy Burke reviewed the grant proposal to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for a study and planning project for the future Highway 100 trail bridge at the Cedar River, known as the Biechler Bridge.

MOTION by Hughes, second by Burke

To approve Resolution #2020-9 and authorize the Executive Director to submit the grant application on behalf of the Board.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7/20/2020

ITEM R7. Discuss and decide on authorizing the Director to sign a contract with LL Pelling for extending asphalt surfacing from the Wapsi Bluff Shelter to the Pinicon Ridge Park entrance.

Randy Burke reviewed the contract with LL Pelling for extending asphalt surfacing from the Wapsi Bluff Shelter to the Pinicon Ridge Park entrance at a cost of \$42,462.00.

MOTION by Burke, second Kanz

To approve the contract with LL Pelling and authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R8. Discuss and decide on authorizing staff to continue efforts toward renaming Squaw Creek Park including submitting an application for a name change to the US Board on Geographic Names.

Goemaat reviewed the background and research of the name Squaw Creek Park along with a proposed new name for the park submitted by Meskwaki representatives supported by the State Archaeologist. Goemaat also reviewed the process of renaming Squaw Creek through an application for name change to the US Board on Geographic Names. Hanson requested moving quickly to strike the current name and list a placeholder until a permanent name can be found. Hanson noted renaming the creek might take years. Goemaat noted Ames was able to rename a creek relatively quickly. Goemaat noted new signage would be needed even for the temporary name if the Board moved in that direction. Staff will continue to gather information including projected timelines for renaming. Hughes asked if this issue had been discussed with the Board of Supervisors. Goemaat confirmed conversation had taken place and there was support for renaming the park by the Board of Supervisors. Goemaat noted an initial inquiry to other jurisdictions is still pending response. Hughes suggested a public communication that the Board is taking steps to change the name. Burke noted support for the name Wanatee and asked if a presentation by Meskwaki representatives would be appropriate. Hughes suggested naming the park before renaming the creek might lessen the ability for the Board to lead on the issue of renaming Squaw Creek. Burke suggested early naming of the park might strengthen our effort to lead the creek name change. Hanson suggested an array of name choices should be brought to the Board for discussion and that staff could pursue renaming of the creek through the Federal process. Hughes noted longer term research by the Board and staff to look into this name. She noted that this effort has been ongoing and it has not

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7/20/2020

been solely a reaction to recent national events. Kanz suggested he doesn't support a temporary name change, but should simply communicate that the Board is working on the effort to rename the park. Goemaat confirmed that staff could gather more information for the August Board meeting and further discuss the issue with the Board of Supervisors. Hughes asked if all communications should refer to the park as "S. Creek Park" instead of using the full name. Burke agreed public communication should state the Board is moving forward with the process to change the name of the park.

MOTION by Burke, second Hughes

Authorize staff to work with other jurisdictions to start discussions on renaming the stream.

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

ITEM R9. Discuss and decide on Resolution #2020-10, application for funding assistance from the State Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources concerning the acquisition of 37 acres (more or less) of land.

Gibbins reviewed the grant application for the State REAP grant program requesting \$100,000 in grant funding through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources concerning the acquisition of 37 acres (more or less) of land.

MOTION by Burke, second Kanz

To approve Resolution #2020-10 and authorize the Executive Director to submit the grant application on behalf of the Board.

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

ITEM R10. 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: Gibbins reported on ongoing community outreach efforts by Ryan Schlader including the Pinicon Ridge dam modification virtual open house, billboard promotions, future summer recreation issue of Little Village, and conservation education programming. Cindy Burke noted Board appreciation for all of the hard work by staff for ongoing operations and the dam project virtual open house during the pandemic.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7/20/2020

- 2) Updates:
- a. COVID-19 Response Update – Goemaat discussed ongoing protocols due to COVID-19.
 - b. Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant Update – Gibbins reviewed the recent presentation of the Morgan Creek Park project application to the CAT Board in July and the timeline of CAT award notifications likely to be in August.
 - c. Prairie Planting at Squaw Creek Park/Naming Suggestion – Gibbins reviewed staff suggestion to name the 190 acre prairie at the Dows addition to Squaw Creek Park after the Monarch Research Project due to the nearly one half million dollars raised and donated to Linn County Conservation by the Monarch Research Project in partnership through the 1,000 Acres Pollinator Initiative. The Board concurred with the idea and indicated a future meeting item to approve a name would be appropriate.
 - d. Gift and Legacy Program Update – Gibbins reviewed staff suggestions toward updating the gift and legacy program during the upcoming winter season. The goal would be to propose changes that will consolidate gift recognition to a central area in Morgan Creek Park to increase program management efficiency, park aesthetics and set appropriate expectations regarding permanency of a donated tree or bench. Goemaat noted memorial posts and signs have created a cemetery look in the arboretum. Gibbins noted staff would like to pause the program until changes can be brought to the Board for consideration. Board consensus was to support a temporary moratorium while still allowing undesignated gifts to be received. Hughes suggested the program should clearly communicate donated trees should not have an expectation of permanency and the program should get away from the posts and plaques that look like a cemetery. Kanz discussed the program could be in the form of an endowment to help manage the park and that posts and plaques are not supportive of sustainability goals. Hughes noted the Iowa Arboretum has been successful in raising donations and offering different tiers of giving to support plant diversity. Hanson concurred with the temporary pause in taking gifts for named memorials.
 - e. Goemaat noted staff present from the park. Jason Baumann noted how reservations were responding to COVID rules for social distancing.
 - f. August Conservation Board Meeting Date (August 17) will potentially be held at Morgan Creek Park. Goemaat suggested a September field trip meeting with the Board of Supervisors and Conservation Board at the new Wapsi Bluff Shelter at Pinicon Ridge Park.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7/20/2020

ITEM R11. Public comment

None.

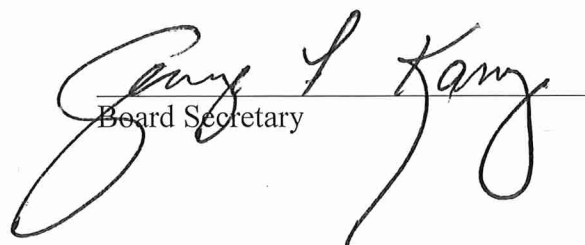
ITEM R12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Catherine Kastens typed the above minutes.


Recording Secretary

SEAL


Board Secretary