

**LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020, BOARD MEETING**



The following is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board held on **March 23, 2020**, by conference call.

**Board Members Present**

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

Board members joined by conference call due to COVID-19 requirements and recommendations by the State of Iowa and Linn County Public Health.

**Board Members Absent**

None

**Staff Present**

Dennis Goemaat, Director; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Director; Randy Burke, Planner; Ryan Schlader, Community Outreach; Kent Rector, Nature Center Manager

**Others Present**

Conference call information was advertised through the agenda posted for the public meeting. No additional public were present through conference call.

**Call To Order**

Board Vice President John Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

**Public Comment**

None

**ITEM R1. Approve Consent Agenda**

**Motion** by Burke, second by Kanz

To approve the consent agenda.

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

The consent agenda was approved and involved the following items:

**ITEM C1. Approve the February 24, 2020 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**ITEM C2. Approve claims list and expenditures – Claims List #2020-9.**  
Claims and Transfer list #2020-9 involving claim #9-574 through claim #9-619.

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

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

**ITEM C5. Acceptance of gifts.**  
None this month.

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**ITEM C6. Authorize staff to purchase equipment items: two tractors and two out-front mowers.**

**ITEM C7. Capital Improvement Program Updates Report.**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**ITEM R2. Discuss and decide on forwarding certain bond-funded projects to the Linn County Bond Review Board.**

Hillary Hughes joined the meeting by phone at 12:06 PM.

Goemaat reviewed potential water quality bond-funded projects for a future bond 3 letting.

**MOTION** by Kanz, second by Burke

To forward all 8 bond-funded projects as presented to the Linn County Bond Public Review Board.

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

**ITEM R3. Discuss and decide on updating current Board policies - Series 3 Board Process including:**

- 3-4    Board Responsibilities**
- 3-5    Board Officers and Their Responsibilities**
- 3-6    Board Meetings**

Steve Emerson joined the meeting by phone at 12:16 PM.

The Board reviewed Policies 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6. Goemaat reviewed proposed changes to various series 3 policies. Hanson and Burke commented they liked the changes to the election of Board positions.

**MOTION** by Hughes, second by Burke

To approve policies 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6, as proposed for immediate implementation with readings waived.

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

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### ITEM R4. 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: Ryan Schlader reported on communications concerning COVID-19 including temporary signage, social media, delaying of the Oak Hickory newsletter, new prairie seeding educational video, podcast with Ketelsen RV, and collaboration with conservation education staff for Facebook videos for a variety of virtual programs.
- 2) Updates:
  - a. Nature Center Manager Kent Rector – Gibbins introduced and welcomed new Nature Center Manager Kent Rector who started on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - b. Squaw Creek name update - Goemaat updated the Board on additional research on park naming related to Native American names.
  - c. Legislative update - Goemaat commented on the adjournment of the legislature and discussions state-wide on how to keep the IWILL conversation relevant.
  - d. Invitation to participate in campaign event – Goemaat discussed with the Board an invitation to an educational forum by a local campaign and requested consensus about participation by the Director due to the partisan nature of the event. Board consensus was for the Director to decline participation.
  - e. Metropolitan Planning Organization trail funding plan 2020-2030 – Goemaat discussed a future update that will be brought to the Board after COVID-19 to discuss future MPO community trail planning.
  - f. COVID-19 - Potential impacts to conservation program – Goemaat reviewed a COVID-19 response document that summarizes department response and efforts to continue connecting with the public to offer safe alternatives to get outside to promote physical and mental health during COVID-19. Kanz asked if there were any requests for assistance by other County departments for emergency management. Goemaat confirmed the department is responding to County requests for help in communications and sanitization product supply. The Board communicated appreciation for all Conservation Department staff efforts to get through COVID-19 positively, safety and while working hard to continue to serve the community as possible.

### ITEM R5. Public comment

None.

### ITEM R6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 PM

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
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Catherine Kastens typed the above minutes.

  
Recording Secretary

SEAL

*Minutes approved via conference call*  
Board Secretary *4/27/2020*  
*Dennis E. [unclear], Director*