

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 8:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.  
Present: Chairperson Walker, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Zumbach. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order.

Jen Musick, Health Solutions, provided a Health and Wellness update. She presented a PowerPoint highlighting year to date progress for the current rewards program and discussed the rewards program beginning July 1, 2021.

Lisa Powell, Human Resources Dir., discussed AFSCME contract changes effective July 1, 2021.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve minutes of April 26, 2021 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. - budget amendment submitted; Child & Youth Development: DHS unannounced annual visit went well; General Assistance: Overflow Shelter remains open beyond its normal scope (potential upcoming closure); social security assistance; Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners (PATCH) program; Emergency Food and Shelter (EFSP) program; Home Health: Public Health coordinated vaccinations; Options: numbers have increased; Access Center: patients have been accepted for one month; began walk in hours yesterday; Detention: Cares Act funding utilized; trauma informed yoga; printout of core services for outreach and committees that he and Ashley Balius are involved in and managing the workload.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. - uptick in use of parks; Wickiup Hill play scape; Hwy. 100 trail through Morgan Creek Park and extension to Covington; Park Entrance Signage Master Plan public hearing has been set; dam modification at Pinicon Ridge; solar array project near Palo and public input meeting (Goemaat, Nichols & Zumbach will work on a meeting date); campgrounds open now; kudos to Planting Forward (2,300 trees went out the door); trail grant applications submitted; and a July 17 possible date for a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors and Conservation Board.

Supervisor Rogers wanted to state publicly that he takes his children often to Wickiup and that is how they interface with Conservation. It is an amazing part of their childhood and is an amazing amenity.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation - Conservation Reserve Program (changes at the National level); Environmental Quality Incentives Program (sign up until May 7); money is still available for the following programs: State Cost Share, REAP Farmstead Windbreak, and late plantings for no till and strip till; Indian Creek Watershed and recent webinars; installing signage at highly saturated buffers; completed survey work for wetland project on farm ground to reduce nutrient loss; additional soil health testing; tillage survey planned; involved in outreach projects such as North Linn Comm. School Dist. storm water runoff, city of Ely and spring tree distribution; working with Planning & Development regarding Dows Farm spring farming activities as well as working on vegetation management plan for a solar complex near Palo.

Nicole Kehres, Veterans Affairs Dir. - continue to assist veterans in various ways and strive to respond within 24 hours; FY 21 statistics for assistance; working on outreach to veterans; work closely with other organizations to contact new veterans; budget is underspent; trainings (Core Values and START); review of changes to income guidelines; and upcoming events.

Discussion continued regarding the announcement of the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and any impact on the Veteran Affairs office (there is a five year window on any medical benefits).

Phil Lowder, I.T. Dir. - Budget overall is underspent; three staff vacancies; threats towards governmental agencies on all levels; the shortage of driver chips impacts his budget and the computer replacement program is on hold; new employees that need computers will be a challenge; and will be reaching out to Facilities to replace fire alarm copper lines with cellular technology (\$15,000 - \$20,000 annual savings). Have also worked with Facilities and County attorney regarding infrastructure and connectivity.

Discussion continued regarding the IT industry's problem for filling staff vacancies. May need to address wages and job descriptions.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Manager - Communications planning with various agencies; talking to Farm Bureau about a focus group; greenhouse gas inventory completed (summary will be a future agenda item); recruiting for the Green Americorps positions; tree equity program wrapped up; solar power hour; and carbon credits research.

Page 2  
April 27, 2021

Chairperson Walker stated that folks reach out to Ms. Marcus as a recognized expert in climate action and kudos to her.

Adjournment at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor  
By: Amanda Hoy, Executive Assistant  
and: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors