

**Linn County Trails Association
Board Meeting
Monday September 12th, 2016**

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on September 12th, 2016 at the Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building. . A quorum was present. Those who attended the meeting were the following:

LCTA Board Members:

Paul Fiegen (President) Tom Peffer (Vice President) Keith Sutherland Brad Mullin (Secretary) Sarah Barber John Hager Diane Handler Steve Hershner Kyle Lundberg Larry Scott Kirschen Seah John Wauer Kesha Billings Dan Biechler

Guests:

Philip Lietz

Call to Order:

President, Paul Fiegen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the August board meeting were distributed electronically. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$116,830. The motion to approve the report passed unanimously.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen)

1. **Mayors' Bike Ride:** The ride was Monday, September 5th. There were 365 participants. The following elected officials participated:
 - a. Cedar Rapids Mayor :Ron J. Corbett
 - b. Cedar Rapids Council Member District 1: Kris Gulick
 - c. Cedar Rapids Council Member District 2: Scott Overland
 - d. Cedar Rapids Council Member District 4: Scott E. Olson
 - e. Hiawatha Mayor: William Bennett Jr.
 - f. Robins Council Member: Donald B. Norton II
 - g. Senator State Senator District 33 Robert M. Hogg
 - h. Representative State Representative District 66: Art Staed
 - i. Representative State Representative District 69: Kirsten Running-Marquardt
 - j. Auditor of State the of Iowa: Mary Mosiman
 - k. City of Marion: Council MemberL Kim Etzel

B. Trail Operations and Safety :

1. Traffic Enforcement in Linn County Communities: Dean Barnum reported an increase incidents involving bicyclists receiving traffic tickets in several Linn County communities, Ely and Fairfax. Several of the violations involve not stopping at stop signs located on the roadway.
2. Electric bicycles: The board discussed the current rules and regulation regarding electric bicycles on the area trails. The county does not permit the use of electric bicycles on the county trails unless the individual has a disability requiring the need for assistance. It is unknown that the other jurisdictions have similar regulations.

B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. Linn County Conservation Department: Dan Biechler reported:

A. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Paving Schultz Road to Ash Lane:

This project is 3.5 miles of grading, ditching and paving. The estimated cost is \$1.2 million. The Conservation Board has received a \$600,000 State Recreational Trails Grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation for the project. The trail will be paved with asphalt from Schultz Road to Iowa Street on the south edge of Center Point. The remainder of the trail through Center Point will be concrete. The contractor began work in August. Tentatively, the contractor would like to complete asphalt section to Iowa St. by November. The trail will close for the paving project. As of the meeting, the contractor was two weeks behind schedule due to the weather.

2. Marion:

- a. The Marion Swamp Fox Festival is Saturday, September 24th. There will be a short ride at the conclusion of the Market at 1pm.
- b. **Proposed trail name changes**: The Marion Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has proposed identifying the current Marion Corridor Trail and Lindale Trail as the Grant Wood Trail for further signage and wayfinding.

3. CMPO: Brandon Whyte provided updates on the following projects:

- a. Highway 100 Trail: Project will need to be added to the CMPO Fiscally Constrained Plan before it can receive funds. Possibility of being two separate phases. It was proposed that the Wicki-Up Hill Connector trail be removed from the CMPO Fiscally Constrained Plan.

New Business:

1. LCTA Board Member Nominating Committe: Steve Hershner, Dean Barnum and Diane Handler volunteered to serve on the Nomination Committee. They will create a list for board approval at the October meeting.
2. Marion: Grant Wood Trail Extension: In a letter to the LCTA, Kesha Billings has asked for a financial commitment for the paving of the Grant Wood trail east of Highway 13 to 35th St. The IDOT letting is scheduled for January 2017. The concern is that the project could potentially cost over the budgeted amount. Steve Hershner moved that the LCTA contribute to the City of Marion not to exceed \$50,000 for the Grant Wood Trail extension contingent that the funds are for the construction of a paved surface for the trail. Keith Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Tom Peffer agreed to work with Kesha Billings in a creation of letter to accompany the check to the City of Marion expressing the desires of the LCTA in regards to the project.
3. Linn County Bond Referendum: Members of the Linn County Conservation Department presented the following information:

“On August 10, 2016, the Linn County Board of Supervisors approved a request by the Linn County Conservation Board to put on the Nov. 8, 2016 ballot a \$40 million, 20-year general obligation bond referendum to fund water quality and land protection, park improvements and trails, known as the Linn County Water and Land Legacy.

These priorities were identified through public engagement and input over the last two years as the Linn County Conservation Board gathered public input and developed long-term master plans for Linn County parks and natural areas. All expenditures would be publicly disclosed and projects would be guided by the master plans and managed by the Linn County Conservation Board.

A feasibility study conducted by The Trust for Public Lands found the cost to the average homeowner would be about \$27 per year, or \$2.25 per month if voters approve the bond referendum.

The Linn County Conservation Board would use more than half of the \$40 million for water quality and land protection. This includes protecting and enhancing watersheds and greenway floodplains to protect drinking water sources, buffer communities from flooding, provide floodwater storage to reduce future flooding, improve water quality, and protect fish and wildlife habitat for future generations.

Park improvement funding would add or improve existing park facilities to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. Trail funding would involve completing regional trail connections between communities and trail projects associated with existing trails and parks. Both park improvement and trail projects would be designed with emphasis on water quality, protecting drinking water sources, and ways to help reduce flooding.”

A request was made to the board for official support of the referendum, distribution information using the LCTA email list and the possibility of providing financial support of the support of the referendum. Tom Peffer moved that the LCTA donate \$10,000 to the” Vote Yes Campaign” in support of the referendum. Steve Hershner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **UCI/Jingle Cross Cyclocross Races**: The events are Friday, September 23rd through Sunday, September 25th. There is a need for volunteers. Interested volunteers may contact the Jingle Cross website.
5. **Hawkeye Bicycle Association: Fall Social** : The social is Sunday, October 2nd from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Lowe Park located at 4500 N. 10th Street in Marion. The HBA asked for an LCTA member speak at the event about current and upcoming trail projects.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LCTA Board Meetings

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, October 10th, 6:00pm

Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, November 14th, 6:00pm

Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.