

# Linn County Trails Association

## Board Meeting

### Monday November 14th, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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) Dean Barnum John Ernst Vicky Evans Leland Freie John Hager Diane Handler Kevin Kirchner Ron McGraw Gary Palmer Larry Scott John Wauer Dick Woodward Dan Biechler Brandon Whyte

#### **Guests:**

Phillip Platz Rich Smith Lisa Hein Jeff Westfield Barry McQuiston

#### **Call to Order:**

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

#### **Presentation: Lisa Hein: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation:**

In 2010, 63 percent of Iowans voted for a constitutional amendment to create the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, a permanent and constitutionally protected funding source dedicated to clean water, productive agricultural soils and thriving wildlife habitats. Six years later, the Trust Fund sits empty because it requires a sales tax increase of 3/8ths of a cent for funding.

Lisa explained that given our enormous challenges related to water quality and the clear benefits tied to soil conservation and improving our wildlife habitat, Iowa's Water and Land Legacy supports raising the sales tax to fund the Trust Fund.

Iowa's Water and Land Legacy does not represent a political party or a specific piece of legislation, but rather the people of rural and urban Iowa who overwhelmingly demanded action in 2010. They are represented by a broad-based coalition ranging from conservationists and sportspersons to farmers and business leaders who all believe cleaning our water, protecting our soil and enhancing our habitat will strengthen our economy and improve our quality of life.

Future generations of Iowans are counting on us to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. They urge Iowa's political leaders to include a sales tax increase of at least 3/8ths of a cent in any legislative solution aimed at addressing water quality and conservation moving forward. Tom Peffer moved that the LCTA join the coalition as an organization and support. Iowa's Water and Land Legacy. John Wauer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

For more information or to join the Iowa's Water and Land Legacy visit their website at <http://www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org/>

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes for the October board meeting were distributed electronically. There was one correction, Diane Handler was added to the attendance list. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$58,648. The motion to approve the report passed unanimously. The Board approved the 2017 Budget unanimously.

## **Old Business:**

1. **LCTA Board Member Nominating Committee:** Steve Hershner, Dean Barnum and Diane Handler volunteered to serve on the Nomination Committee. Diane Handler moved that the board approve the following list:

**President:** Tom Pepper

**Vice President:** Kevin Kirchner

**Treasurer:** Keith Sutherland

**Secretary:** Brad Mullin

### **Board Members:**

Sarah Barber

Dean Barnum

John Ernst

Vicky Evans

Paul Fiegen

Leland Freie

John Hager

Diane Handler

Steve Hershner

Jeff Keiser

Kyle Lundberg

Ron McGraw

Dick Mundy

Gary Palmer

Phillip Platz

Larry Scott

Kirschen Seah

John Wauer

Dick Woodward.

## **Reports for Standing Committees:**

### **A. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen)**

### **B. Trail Operations and Safety:**

1. Trail Counters: John Wauer discussed the use of trail counters during the winter. The data collected could assist the City of Cedar Rapids determine feasibility of maintaining certain trails during the winter months.

### **B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):**

1. **Linn County Conservation Department:** Dan Biechler reported:

### **A. Linn County Water and Land Legacy:**

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. The measure was approved by county residents by 74%. Dan Biechler expressed gratitude for LCTA's help in promoting the vote "yes campaign.

**B. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Paving Schultz Road to Iowa St.:**

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 and completed the asphalt section last week. Tentative plans have the concrete section through Center Point completed by June 2017.

**C. Cedar Valley Nature Trail: West Blue Creek Bridge Replacement:**

This project involves the replacement of a 270' long bridge approximately half a mile east of Interstate 380. This bridge is in extremely poor condition. The preliminary estimate is \$750,000. Removal of the existing bridge will occur this winter. Construction of the new bridge scheduled for the spring of 2017.

**D. Cedar Valley Nature Trail: East Blue Creek Bridge Replacement:**

The Iowa Department of Transportation awarded a \$250,000 State Recreational Trail Grant for the project. Earliest time frame for removal and construction is late 2017.

**2. Marion:**

**A. Grant Wood Trail Paving:** The city of Marion received \$50,000 for the paving of the Grant Wood Trail west of Highway 13. If the project is over-budget, the funds are designated to assist in the completion of the paving of the trail. Construction of the trail will occur in 2017.

**3. CMPO:** Jurisdictions are discussing signage designs and mile markers for the area trails. A county-wide logo options were presented for discussions at CMPO meetings and approved. Brandon reviewed projects set for development in 2017.

**4. Lindale Trail Extension:** The board discussed the need of meeting with Rockwell Collins in early 2017.

**New Business:**

**1. City of Hiawatha: Cedar Valley Nature Crossing at Boyson Rd:**

With the goal of increasing safety at the intersection of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and Boyson Road, LCTA proposed the installation of a rectangular rapid flash beacon. The beacon blinks at a crosswalk grabbing motorists' attention and getting them to yield at crosswalks for pedestrians. The lights would be solar powered and button activated. John Wauer moved that the LCTA appropriate up to \$10,000 to assist Hiawatha in funding the construction of the project. Larry Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Hawkeye Bicycle Association has pledged \$7,000 for the project. A meeting with the city of Hiawatha is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**2. Financial Audit of Treasurer:** On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Tom Pepper, John Wauer and Gary Palmer met with Keith Sutherland to review the organizations financial records. Tom Pepper

submitted a letter to the board declaring that Keith has a good financial system that provides a very high level of service for a small non-profit like LCTA.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm



## Linn County Trails Association **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **LCTA Board Meetings**

LCTA Board Meeting  
Monday, January 9th, 6:00pm  
Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building  
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.