

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

RESOLUTION #2017-2

RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO PLACE A BOND REFERENDUM ON THE NOVEMBER 8, 2016 ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION AND PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Linn County Conservation Board continues to build on its successes involving its purposes of acquiring, developing, and maintaining county parks, nature and wildlife areas, and other conservation areas; promoting health and wellness; conservation of natural resources; and improving quality of life by providing public outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board, over the past two years, has studied and engaged the general public in developing new park master plans and held public meetings to identify future desired needs for Linn County parks and natural areas; and

WHEREAS, based on this public engagement and input, future water, land and park and outdoor recreation needs were identified. In addition, several areas of focus were brought forth including protecting and improving water resources and improving water quality; protecting natural resources and wildlife habitat; expanding park and outdoor recreation experiences; emphasizing sustainable green design; and interaction between people and nature is important; and

WHEREAS, the park master planning process also involved the development of priority implementation actions including a feasibility study involving future funding options to address water and land conservation and park and outdoor recreation needs of Linn County parks and natural areas; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, at the request of the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the Conservation Board, The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) completed a feasibility study, at its expense, that considered options that Linn County would have for providing increased funding for the Conservation Board for river and stream improvements, park and trail improvements, protection of water resources, improving water quality, providing areas for water storage to reduce flooding, and natural resources and wildlife habitat protection; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study recommended that a public opinion survey be conducted to gauge voter support for funding mechanisms including a general obligation bond measure that could be used for water and land conservation and park and outdoor recreation needs; and

WHEREAS, The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) commissioned, at its expense, a public opinion survey of Linn County voters, which was conducted in May 2016 and conducted by John Wilson Research of Alexandria, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, an executive summary of the findings of this public opinion survey was presented to the Linn County Conservation Board on June 27th, 2016; and

WHEREAS, this public opinion survey indicates that there is voter support for the Linn County Conservation Board and a forty-million-dollar bond measure with bonds to be sold and proceeds disbursed over a 20-year period to protect drinking water sources and water quality of rivers and streams, protect natural areas and wildlife habitat, improve parks and to construct trails, and to protect and acquire conservation lands; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study indicates that Linn County could generate substantial funds for conservation at a low cost to taxpayers by issuing bonds. A forty million dollars, 20-year general obligation bond would cost the average homeowner about \$27 per year, or about \$2.25 per month, or \$0.08 per day; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Linn County, Iowa, Conservation Board hereby petitions the Linn County Board of Supervisors to immediately and without delay, to initiate and take action to place before the voters of Linn County, Iowa, a bond referendum for forty million dollars for the purposes of providing needed funds to the Conservation Board for water and land conservation and park and outdoor recreation projects; and

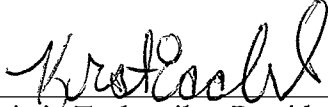
BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Linn County Conservation Board that the general obligation bond measure wording be as follows:

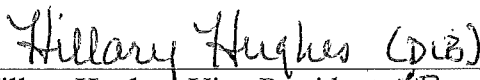
“LINN COUNTY WATER AND LAND LEGACY BOND

Shall the County of Linn, State of Iowa, issue its general obligation bonds in an amount not exceeding forty million dollars for the purposes of protecting sources of drinking water and the water quality of rivers and streams, including the Cedar and its tributaries; protecting land to provide natural flood storage to reduce flooding; providing funds to improve parks; providing biking and walking trails; and protecting wildlife habitat and natural areas, to be managed by the Linn County Conservation Board, with full public disclosure of all expenditures.”

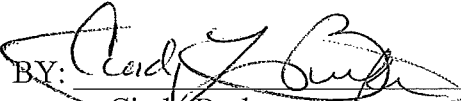
DATED at Toddville, Linn County, Iowa this 25th day of July, 2016.


LINN COUNTY, IOWA, CONSERVATION BOARD

BY:  aye: nay: ___ absent: ___ abstaining: ___
Kristin Eschweiler, President

BY:  (DIB) aye: nay: ___ absent: ___ abstaining: ___
Hillary Hughes, Vice-President (By phone conference call)

BY:  aye: ___ X nay: ___ absent: ___ abstaining: ___
Steve Emerson, Secretary

BY:  aye: nay: ___ absent: ___ abstaining: ___
Cindy Burke, member

BY:  (DLB) aye: nay: ___ absent: ___ abstaining: ___
George F. Kanz, member (By phone conference call)

SEAL