

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022**

At 9:01 a.m. Chairperson Richard Young called to order in regular session a meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors which took place in the Washington County Courthouse. The agenda included the following items: approval of agenda; public comment; public hearing regarding the status of funding for the Washington County Homebuyer Assistance Program; Annual Report - Washington County Conservation; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Marcus Fedler, Jack Seward, Jr., Bob Yoder, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Other individuals in attendance included Jerry Edwards, KCII Radio; Kalen McCain, SE Iowa Union; Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Services Director; Zach Rozmus, County Conservation Director; Mary Audia, Washington Economic Development Group Executive Director; Chad Little, Connifer Power Company; and Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant. Various other individuals participated by remote means.

All motions were passed unanimously by those Supervisors in attendance unless noted otherwise.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment related to agenda items.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to open a public hearing to consider the status of funded activities for the Homebuyer Assistance Program for Washington County, Iowa, as assisted by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program (Contract #20-HSB-006). Paula Mitchell, with East Central Iowa Council of Governments, participated remotely and shared that with regard to a description of accomplishments to date, a CDBG Housing contract in the amount of \$172,800 was awarded to Washington County from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). A total of 21 applications were received and processed with two homebuyers receiving assistance to date. Through July 31, 2022, a total of \$38,575.84 has been invoiced composed of \$15,626.84.05 for homebuyer assistance expenses and \$22,949.00 for grant administration and technical services. Homebuyer assistance expenses include down payments, eligible closing costs, and home inspection fees. In addition to the two homebuyers that have already been assisted, a third homebuyer has a projected closing date of August 31, 2022. A completion date of September 30, 2022, is anticipated. A contract amendment was approved by the IEDA extending the contract performance period for an additional 60 days to accommodate the upcoming closing. Due to the extremely tight housing market conditions at the present time the number of homebuyers assisted is projected to be three, rather than the original five that were anticipated. Auditor Daniel Widmer shared that notice of the public hearing was published as required. There was no other comment. On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

Conservation Director Zach Rozmus provided the Board with the Washington County Conservation Board (WCCB) Report for FY22 which listed project expenditures of \$656,895.13, administration expenses of \$498,346.91, maintenance and operation expenses of \$168,155.98, and finally recreational services expenses of \$6,224.27 for a total of \$1,329,586.29. Attendance at the Education Center during FY22 totaled approximately 10,000 individuals of which the majority were school age youths. Also, the WCCB entered into a purchase agreement to acquire property commonly known as the Bur Oak property. The 105-acre property, located near Wellman, will be an important addition to the existing 782-acre property that is already owned by the WCCB. The property consists of 40 acres of timber and 65 acres of wetland. WCCB will manage the property as a public hunting area with the goal of enhancing the existing habitat in a manner which will provide the necessary space, food sources, and cover necessary for native species to flourish. Rozmus highlighted various Phase II enhancements to the KeWash Nature Trail which included grading and paving of a 1.4 mile portion of the trail. Completion of the project will result in year-round usage of the trail and increased accessibility for individuals with limited mobility. Funding sources for the project included a Transportation Alternative Program Grant, a Wellmark Foundation Grant, funds derived from the WCCB's capital projects and REAP accounts, as well as private donations. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge the Washington County Conservation Board's annual report for FY22 as presented by Conservation Director Zach Rozmus and to authorized each Supervisor to sign the report.

There was no comment from department heads.

At 9:40 a.m. on motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
August 16, 2022

RICHARD L. YOUNG, CHAIRPERSON
Washington County Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor