

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FORTY-THIRD MEETING, 2023 SESSION (43)
OCTOBER 24, 2023**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Snyder presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Merten, Ringgenberg, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: Hartman.

Unless otherwise indicated, all the following **motions** offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Croker, Merten, Ringgenberg, and Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve today's **agenda**. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Cherokee Rural Water, Cherokee, IA, to bore under C-65 between Sections 17 and 20 in Maple Valley Township for the transmission of potable water. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Windstream Iowa Communications, LLC, Little Rock, AR, to install fiber optic cable along C25 in Section 36 Maple Valley Township, from 191.5' west of S. 1st Ave/C25 intersection to 116.2' east of S. 1st Ave/C25 intersection. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented a utility permit for Platinum Crush, for the accommodation of an 8" force main, air release manholes, diffuser, and diffuser structures for the transmission of water treatment and cooling system discharge water from the Platinum Crush site to the North Raccoon River at the 640th Street bridge in Section 25, T90N, R36W. Erik Lightner, CEO of Platinum Crush, Jay Nelson, Director of Trading & Risk Management for Platinum Crush, and Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme were present for the discussion, along with Tom Madden, Engineer of SEH, who was online. Madden commented that the DNR had issued the construction permit last week. Croker was concerned about the long-term water quality. Madden stated that DNR regulates water quality standards, and that Platinum Crush would be well above the standards. Merten stated that he appreciates Platinum Crush stepping up and going above and beyond to do the right thing. Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Platinum Crush, for the transmission of water treatment and cooling system discharge water from the Platinum Crush site to the North Raccoon River at the 640th Street bridge in Section 25, T90N, R36W. Ayes: Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: Croker. Motion carried.

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme presented the Board with a Drainage District Crossing Permit for Platinum Crush. The permit application covers 13 crossings of 8 different Drainage Districts for the installation of the 8" force main containing colling system discharge water from the Platinum Crush site to the North Raccoon River. Blomme stated that the permit requires the pipe to be 5' below an open ditch, and 1' below drainage tile. Blomme stated that it is treated like a regular utility permit since it doesn't carry hazardous liquid. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Merten, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Drainage District Crossing Permit** for Platinum Crush. Ayes: Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: Croker. Motion carried.

Secondary Road Report: Cleanup work still continues on the river bridge in Linn Grove; asphalt patching was done on several areas of the county; the two new hires started yesterday. They are down one crew member from last week; they are still mowing and cutting brush.

CEO Jessica Rohrs and Advocate Yoseline Padilla, **Family Crisis Center** updated the Board on the services provided to Buena Vista County residents during FY'23. Rohr stated that a total of \$113,000 was spent on Buena Vista County clients last year, and the contract amount received from the County was \$5,000. For Buena Vista County, they had 63 clients of domestic violence, 31 clients of homicide and violent crimes, 30 clients for medical clinic outreach, 5 clients that needed housing, and 61 crisis line calls. Rohrs informed the Board that they were requesting \$7,500 in funding for FY'25 due to increased costs. Their current contract is \$5,000.

Chairman Snyder asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public**, with no response.

The time arrived for the Conference call with the Palo Alto and Clay County Boards of Supervisors, as Trustees of **Jt. DD #22**, in regard to the proposed wetland enhancement at the SW ¼ of Section 17, T94N, R34W, Palo Alto County. All members of the Palo Alto and Clay County Boards of Supervisors were online, along with Auditor Carmen Moser (Palo Alto). Present for Buena Vista County, in addition to the Board, included Auditor Susan Lloyd, and Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme. Motion by Linus Solberg (Palo Alto), 2nd by Barry Anderson (Clay) to appoint Ron Graettinger (Palo Alto), Chair and Carmen Moser (Palo Alto), Secretary, of the joint conference call for Joint Drainage District No. 22. Ayes: all. Motion carried. Sara Smith, of IDALS, presented the proposed constructed wetland enhancement site in Section 17 of Booth Township, Palo Alto County. The current wetland was established in 2010 and this is an enhancement of the wetland site. This proposed project is part of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Program that is fully funded by IDALS. Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme (Buena Vista) recommends approval of the site. Motion by Keith Wirtz (Palo Alto), 2nd by Art Hamrick (Clay) to approve the wetland enhancement site for Jt. Drainage District No. 22 in Section 17 of Booth Township and to approve connection to the Branch 19 Tile. Ayes: all. Motion carried. Motion by Linus Solberg (Palo Alto), 2nd by Randy Swanson (Clay) to adjourn the joint conference call for Joint Drainage District No. 22 at 9:54 a.m. Ayes: all. Motion carried. (The full set of minutes are included with the Jt. DD #22 records)

Motion by Croker, second by Merten, to approve the **minutes** of 10/17/2023, as presented, today's **claims approval list & stamped warrant register**, and accept the following **report**: March SHIELD Board meeting minutes. Carried.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson reviewed the 2023 Weed Commissioner's Report. Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **2023 Weed Commissioner's Report**. Carried.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson presented his department updates. **Weed Department**: They have wrapped up the spraying and hope to start hydroseeding next week. They have 17 acres that they want to hydroseed. **Conservation**: All of the seasonal employees are done; they are closing the campgrounds for the season, due to freezing temperatures coming; they had Fall Fun Days, and both campgrounds were full, with roughly 150 people participating; they are cutting down ash trees and still have 20 to cut down at South Cove; as for the **Linn Grove Dam**, they are still waiting for a response from FEMA, which they should have had by September 27. It has been 123 days now, and the response was supposed to be done within 90 days. Johnson has talked with the County Attorney about this and was told to wait a while longer before arbitration. Johnson also stated that it has been 350 days he has been waiting on the FOIA request. Johnson stated that they are missing valuable construction time, and the costs continue to go up.

Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to electronically sign the **Auxiant Administrative forms**. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Merten, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. until Tuesday, October 31 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session.