



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

JANUARY 21, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Brian Preston at 4:00 P.M., over Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94741966573?pwd=bVlIN2k1WERkcUUrZU9sQmpmTnI5UT09>, Meeting ID: 947 4196 6573, Passcode: 673933

Present: Cindy Gotto, Pat Rea, Stacy Conforti, Jay Wickham and George Davis

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Lisa Schroeder, Kaytlan Moeller and Megan Willenbring

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

December 17, 2020 meeting minutes and the December 17, 2020 approved bills. Motion to approve the minutes and bills as presented was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Gotto nominated for chair by Rea and Wickham seconded. Rea nominated for vice chair by Gotto and Wickham seconded. Wickham nominated for secretary by Gotto and Conforti seconded. Motion carried.

WETLAND DISCUSSION:

Nancy Kann with Gronen/Dubuque Property Group, Pat Ready with IIW, and Emily Smart with Blackstone, presented a possible land donation from Flexsteel. Two proposed parcels along HWY 52 North adjacent to the Heritage Trail. These parcels are currently wetlands and would be surveyed from the larger parcel. First parcel is approximately 6.75 acres and the second parcel is approximately 10.7 acres. Ready shared a map outlining the boundaries of the proposed two parcels. The second parcel would possibly provide a small parking lot off of Peru Rd. to accommodate Heritage Trail users. Preston stated this is valuable wildlife area. Sandhill Cranes have been seen on the wetlands. Smart said we need continued soil samples. At this time all levels were within standards for this area. Davis would like to review the easement on the smaller parcel and review current easement with T-Corp. Preston stated we use attorney Kevin Deeny with Kane, Norby & Reddick for all land transactions. Motion to proceed with this land transaction was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

AWARD OF BID FOR OUT FRONT MOWER REPLACEMENT:

Trading a Kubota F2880, 72 inch deck. Three bids were received. Dyersville Equipment for a John Deere 1570, \$29,250.00 less trade of \$6,552.00 for a total of \$22,698.00. Roeder Outdoor Power for a Kubota F3990, \$22,300.00 less trade of \$2,000.00 for a total of \$20,300.00. Roeder Outdoor Power for a John Deere 1570, \$25,300.00 less trade of \$2,000.00 for a total of \$23,300.00. All bids meet the specifications. This mower will be used in the south parks. Motion to award the bid to Roeder Outdoor Power for the Kubota F3990 for \$20,300.00 was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

AWARD OF BID FOR TRACTOR REPLACEMENT:

Trading a 2007 Case IH. The bid process went thru the state. They had two John Deere options available thru local dealers. John Deere 5100M utility tractor and loader, for \$70,949.42 less trade of \$16,311.42 for a total of \$54,638.00. John Deere 5115M utility tractor and loader for \$74,812.51 less trade of \$16,318.51 for a total of \$58,494.00. The biggest difference between the two tractors is the horsepower. The 5100M has 100HP and the 5115M has 115HP. Sisler stated either tractor would be sufficient for what we need. Preston said we only budgeted \$35,000.00, but felt confident we would be able to get the additional money from capital expenditures. These bids are only good thru February 1, 2021 and then prices would probably go up. We would be able to keep the Case until the new tractor is delivered in June. Motion to award the bid for the John Deere 5100M for \$54,638.00 was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

AWARD OF BID FOR 12 PASSENGER VAN REPLACEMENT:

Trading a 2006 Ford Econoline E350 super duty van. Three bids were received. Runde Auto Group for a 2021 Ford Transit XL passenger van for \$33,708.00 less trade of \$3,000.00 for a total of \$30,708.00, estimated delivery 12-14 weeks. Victory Ford for a 2021 Ford Transit T350 passenger van for \$31,503.00 less trade \$4,494.00 for a total of \$26,999.00, estimated delivery 10-14 weeks. Finnin Ford for a 2021 Ford Transit T350 passenger van for \$38,486.00

less trade of \$3,500.00 for a total of \$34,986.00, estimated delivery 90 days. All specifications were reviewed and determined to be the same. Motion to award the bid to Victory Ford for a 12 passenger van was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

AWARD OF BID FOR FINLEY'S LANDING ELECTRICAL UPGRADE:

One electrical bid was submitted. In reviewing the bid scope it was determined that project scope was missing a few things. We need to include reconnecting lights to the new panel and a new line to the new pavilion. Would like to rebid including the missing items. Motion to approve rebid for Finley's Landing electrical upgrade was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR SEASONAL POSITIONS:

Nine conservation position and two grounds maintenance positions. Motion to approve advertising for eleven positions was made by Rea and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

DUBUQUE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was e-mailed to the Conservation Board Members to review. Minimal insurance requirements. These requirements were sent to the insurance company for review. Brief recap, the programs would be run by teachers and naturalists at the city and county parks. Part of the program includes sharing a new naturalist position with Dubuque County Conservation. All schools and students in Pre-K thru 5th grade would participate. This program would engage students early on and give them onsite instruction. The school district is looking for partners in the community to make this program a success. The citizens of the community value educational resources as defined in the long range plan. Preston felt the need for additional staff was important to successfully run this program. Moeller said additional naturalists would be needed for a bigger impact. No other county in Iowa has this program. This will be an awesome program and make Dubuque stand out. All Conservation Board Members in agreement that this is an equitable partnership.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ANNUAL REPORT:

This report is an annual report run on the calendar year not fiscal year. We are required to report to the Army Corps of Engineers per the lease agreement with Massey, Mud Lake and John Deere March/Little Maquoketa River Delta. This lease is zero dollars. We must comply with the government regulations for these areas. We have been leasing since approximately 1970. Motion to approve the US Army Corps of Engineers annual report was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE 15 REPLACEMENT:

This bridge serves as a cattle pass for Welter Farms and possible flood waters. Has a weight restriction of three tons. The Welter family is good with the plans. No permit required. Will need a signature from Dubuque County flood plain manager. Motion to approve soliciting bids for Heritage Trail Bridge 15 was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

MASSEY CONCESSIONAIRE AGREEMENT:

After several discussions ICAP Insurance carrier has decided to continue our coverage. Rivers Massey would like to continue as the concessionaire but has to find adequate insurance. ICAP is requiring they have a full year of coverage not just during the open season, increase liability, add an umbrella policy and add pollution control for the gas docks. The concession and gas docks are good amenities to have at this location. Dan Wolfe who bought Arrowhead Marina at Mud Lake is also having insurance issues. Insurance companies were hit hard the last year and are tightening down on coverage restrictions. Motion to table Massey Concessionaire agreement until they get insurance was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

FILLMORE CONCESSIONAIRE AGREEMENT:

Jeff Morianum will update his insurance to include the umbrella policy. He would like to move forward with the concessionaire agreement as of today thru January of 2022. Green fees to us, \$500 a month in the off season and \$3,000.00 a month April 1, 2021 thru October 31, 2021. Motion to approve the Fillmore Concessionaire Agreement was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

EB LYONS PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION:

Marie Ware, Leisure Services Manager, City of Dubuque, Detra Dettmann, District Supervisor, Iowa DNR Parks and Todd Coffelt, Chief, State Parks Bureau Iowa DNR were introduced on the zoom meeting. Ware started the discussion with a brief overview of why this partnership is important. The Dubuque County's long range plan is to expand outdoor education. With budget cuts to the state DNR, they are no longer able to manage the EB Lyons interpretive center. This center would allow the Dubuque County Conservation more office space, additional programming opportunities and more parking. There is no other partnership like it in the state and would be very unique. Coffelt stated how special this location is with 1400 acres of wildlife. This partnership would bring the city, county and state together in providing a

natural recreational resource to the community and surrounding areas. Jennifer Tigges, Director with the Friends of the Mines of Spain started this conversation over a year ago. The Friends are an active group willing to help and excited about this partnership. Everyone involved sees the potential in EB Lyons and wants this partnership to work. Preston went over an outline that was revised by the City, State and two Conservation Board Members. Wickham stated his disinterest in the agreement requiring us to hire staff and provide maintenance to a building. He felt strongly that the City and State had more funds than the County. Coffelt stated only EB Lyons offers this great setting on the local DNR budget is not the same as the state level money. Preston stated the money would be a pass thru and not require new monies. Wickham wants to see a ledger showing the money. Conforti felt they discussed the monies in great detail and any additional cost held a greater benefit to the county. Ware said, government entities on the local level working together makes a difference. As a whole provides citizens in the community more opportunities and tourism. Ware wants to move forward and not wait another year. Another submitting will be scheduled before the next Conservation Board meeting in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Picked up the new truck. Working on a donation of about 100 acres of land south of Dubuque. This property would be a great wetland management area.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Completed the shelter at Finley's Landing. Working on a hack tower for observation at Mud Lake. Removed hazard trees and cleared brush.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Bob Miller, 3901 Short St., Dubuque, IA 52002, stated he would like to see a partnership with EB Lyons. It only makes sense to combine similar interest groups. Being a member of the Dubuque County Friends Group he had worked with the Mines of Spain's Friends and was impressed with how actively involved they were. The interpretive center opens additional space for education which is key to success.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the bills was made by Rea and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. over electronic format Zoom.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Rea and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER