



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:00 P.M., over Zoom, Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96422064433?pwd=MEZzQ1hRMXRMUINkRHhOOHdEZ09uUT09>, Meeting ID: 964 2206 4433, Passcode: 987537
Present: Cindy Gotto, Pat Rea, Stacy Conforti, Jay Wickham and George Davis
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Lisa Schroeder, Kaytlan Moeller

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

January 21, 2021 meeting minutes and the January approved bills. Motion to approve the minutes and bills as presented was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE 15 REPLACEMENT:

Two bids were received; Jim Schroeder Construction, Inc. for \$82,980.40 and Taylor Construction, Inc for \$122,750.40. These bids were opened February 16, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. and sent to IIW for review. After IIW reviewed the bids it was determined the low bid was submitted by Jim Schroeder Construction, Inc. IIW recommend award of the Heritage Trail Bridge 15 replacement project to Jim Schroeder Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$82,980.40. Motion to award the bid for Heritage Trail Bridge 15 replacement to Jim Schroeder Construction, Inc. was made by Rea and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

EB LYONS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:

Preston went over the Dubuque County's long range plan chapter 7 strategy and goals. At the heart of this Master Plan is Dubuque County Conservation's Vision of a park system that accomplishes four key strategic initiatives: Recreate, Protect, Educate and Share. Part of the operations and policy considerations encourage partnerships with local clubs and organizations. EB Lyons center would allow the Dubuque County Conservation more office space, additional programming opportunities, ADA trails, and more parking for visitors and school buses. Preston went over an outline that was revised from the input of the last board meeting. Wickham was glad to see the state will contribute additional funds but still felt this was not a fair agreement with requiring the county to hire staff and provide maintenance to a building. Gotto expressed that the research has shown Swiss Valley is not large enough to accommodate the new education programs for this fall. Conforti is in support with this being a key asset for working with schools. Conforti met with the naturalists thru a separate work related program and saw firsthand the struggle to reach all populations. Rea called for a motion to approve the EB Lyons Partnership Agreement and Conforti seconded. Three Aye and Two Nay, majority ruled. Motion carried.

MASSEY CONCESSIONAIRE AGREEMENT:

Rivers Massey would like to continue as the concessionaire but has to find adequate insurance. Motion to table Massey Concessionaire agreement until March was made by Rea and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Working on the completion of the plat for Bowstring Wildlife. Discussions about West John Deere Road project have begun. The Supervisors will have an update on Monday. McCarthy property is roughly 100 acres, the will is in probate at this time. Habitat funds stamp money could be used to improve some projects at Bowstring Wildlife area and White Water Canyon.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Completed the shelter at Finley's Landing. Cut and removed hazard trees and cleared brush. Nick finished the forest reserve inspections. Completed several training requirements. New decals on vehicles and equipment. Worked on the septic at Finley's Landing, frozen line.

NATURLIST REPORT: Training over 30 teachers on the Growing Up Wild program, virtually. Working with the Land and Water Steward Grant for Ameri Corp project. Summer Camps open March 1st for registration. Cultivating more activities and programs with St. Marks, Girls Scouts and Multi-Cultural Center. Continued success with snowshoeing activities and night hikes.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Bob Miller, 3901 Short St., Dubuque, IA 52002, for the Friends group. Suggested a snowshoe with a winery along with the brewery tours. The Friends group is trying to get more involved with events. The Friends group is gifting \$8,000 to the new McCarthy wildlife area. In regards to the agreement for EB Lyons, what will Brian's roll be? Miller felt Preston would be an asset as the Director in a key role for EB Lyons. Ben Biver 2538 Hacienda Dr., Dubuque IA 52002, introduced himself as the new conservation chair for the local Sierra Club.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Rea and seconded by Davis. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:07 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER