



## **DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

13606 Swiss Valley Road  
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[www.dubuqucountyia.gov](http://www.dubuqucountyia.gov)

Brian Preston, Director

### **Board Members:**

Cindy Gotto  
Pat Rea  
Jay Wickham  
Stacy Conforti  
George Davis

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## **MARCH 18, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL:** Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:01 P.M., over Zoom,  
Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91524200955?pwd=U1NWR29udldST3JlL0VFd0cwL1ViQT09>  
Meeting ID: 915 2420 0955, Passcode: 103720

Board Members Present: Cindy Gotto, Pat Rea, Jay Wickham and George Davis. Absent Stacy Conforti,  
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Lisa Schroeder, Kaytlan Moeller, Megan Willenbring

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

February 18, 2021 meeting minutes and the February approved bills. Motion to approve the minutes and bills as presented was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

### **FISH HABITAT AGREEMENT #21-20F, CATFISH CREEK HABITAT PROJECT:**

On February 11, 2021, the Natural Resource Commission approved the Dubuque County Conservation Board application for Fish Habitat Stamp funds. The cost-share agreement is not to exceed \$24,957.00. Fish Habitat Improvement to Catfish Creek in the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve including channel reshaping, placement of toe wood structure, bank hides and rip rap, located between HWY 20 and 151 off Swiss Valley Rd., Dubuque County, Iowa. Project to be completed by December 31, 2022. Motion to approve the Fish Habitat Agreement #21-20F was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

### **AWARD BID FOR FINLEY'S LANDING CAMPGROUND. 50 AMP UPGRADES:**

Three bids were received; Germaine Electric Inc \$35,627.48, Biechler Electric Inc \$29,813.00, and Hawkeye Electric \$34,430.00. All three bids include upgrading 20 campsites, main breaker panel and wiring for park lights. The budget on this project is \$30,000.00. Motion to award the bid for Finley's Landing electrical upgrade was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

### **MOBILE DATA TERMINALS:**

North and South patrol vehicles are in need of updates to their mobile data terminals. They were last updated in 2015. Installation cost is \$14,439.94 for two vehicles. These updates would be the same as the County Sheriff's Department. Motion to approve the updates for the mobile data terminals in the North and South patrol vehicles was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

### **SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – HERITAGE TRAIL ATV/UTV SUNDAYS:**

Overwhelming phone calls and e-mails from the public to not allow ATV/UTV use on Heritage Trail. Motion was made by Rea to not approve the special event permit for ATV/UTV use on Heritage Trail. Wickham seconded this motion but wanted some discussion and comments before voting. Wickham stated safety was his biggest concern. Davis questioned if the trail could handle that type of usage from ATV/UTV's. He also stated the Heritage Trail is more suitable for trail runs and possibly in the future a trial run for ATV/UTV's would be more appropriate. Wayne Kenniker, 11645 Leiser Ln, Dubuque, IA 52001 the applicant spoke on behalf of his application. Kenniker said his main focus was to allow individuals that were physically unable to walk or bike on the Heritage Trail a chance to enjoy the trails beauty. Kenniker also said he would be willing to change the application to fewer Sundays or shorten the time if that would make a difference. He thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. Gotto thanked him for the additional details but was also concerned about safety and the number of 50 ATV/UTV seemed like a lot. Motion was again made by Rea to not approve the special event permit for the Heritage Trail ATV/UTV Sundays and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

### **SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – HERITAGE TRAIL MVRA FUN RUN:**

Applicant Cory Hall for a fun run on May 8, 2021 from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., estimated 300 participants. This has been an annual event, no issues in the past. Preston recommended approval of this application. Motion was made by Wickham to approve the special event permit on Heritage Trail for MVRA Fun Run and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

### **SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – HERITAGE TRAIL BROWNS HOMETOWN VICTORY FOUNDATION COLOR RUN:**

Applicant Kaleann Waterman for color run and kids dash to benefit youth programs on June 12, 2021, from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., estimated participants 75. This has been an annual run with no issues in the past. Preston recommend approval of this application. Motion was made by Wickham to approve the special event permit on Heritage Trail for Browns Hometown Victory Foundation Color Run and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

**MASSEY MARINA CONCESSION AGREEMENT:**

Rivers Massey Marina LLC, Shawn and Jody have been able to secure insurance. With the county insurance requiring additional coverages there insurance went from \$1,085.00 a year to \$4,600.00 and a \$15,000.00 deductible. Shawn and Jody enjoy being the concessionaries but were hoping we would work with them on the rent side to cover the increase for insurance. Preston stated that having fuel available, food and bait and tackle sales is important along the river for the boaters and anglers. Discussion to lower the rent by \$3,000.00 between contract dates March 18, 2021 thru March 18, 2022 was discussed. After several ideas and suggestions it was agreed to waive the monthly rent of \$750.00 for the first four months to cover the increase of insurance. Motion to approve the Massey Marina Concession agreement was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

**MASSEY MARINA CONCESSION FLOORING:**

We have four quotes; Floor Show Commercial, LVT 22 Mil. \$5,096.00, Commercial Flooring, LV 20 Mil. \$6,100.00, Widmeier Flooring Co., LVP 20 Mil. \$7,922.00, Mel's Carpet Outlet, LVP 20 Mil. \$5,785.77. LVP is Luxury Vinyl Plank or LVT which is Luxury Vinyl Tile and Mil. refers to the wear layer of the vinyl. We would try to have the flooring complete before opening or finished during the week before a weekend. We will also work with Rivers Massey Marina to pick color choice. Motion to approve flooring with Floor Show Commercial for \$5,096.00 for Massey Marina was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** The plats for Bowstring Wildlife have been approved. Eleven seasonal positions have been filled. The weather has put a stop on some projects so the staff is using up comp time. The DNR, non-game is looking at barn owl restoration. A lot of fish kill in ponds and shallow water due to the sever weather this winter. Ringneck and Miller-McGrath ponds did well and are preforming well. Little Maquoketa green way were not able to meet FEMA requirements. So we will look for other funding opportunities. ECIA Transportation Grant due April 6<sup>th</sup>. Trying to connect John Deere Trail, working with county engineer for options on how and where to cross HWY 3. Have proposed different routes to the IA DOT and waiting for their response.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT:** Cut and removed hazard trees and dead ash trees. New decals on vehicles and equipment. Started prepping shower buildings. Fixed septic issue at the shop.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Bob Miller, 3901 Short St., Dubuque, IA 52002, for the Friends group. The Friends group welcomed new board members at the annual meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. They are working on getting more involved with activities that Dubuque County Conservation put on. The Friends group also endorses no ATV/UTV use on the Heritage Trail. Tom Griep, 15734 Cedar Ridge Rd., Dubuque, IA 52002, said his property host about ½ a mile of the Heritage Trail. He is greatly opposed to ATV/UTV use on any part of the Heritage Trail. He ask to please hold strong on this decision, because he feels this topic is not over and ATV/UTV user will continue to keep trying.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

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

**NEXT MEETING:**

Scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. over electronic format Zoom.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:06 P.M.