



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

APRIL 15, 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/93805235192?pwd=aDYwQk1jYXVPdVRSbHVSSIErQUhnUT09>
Meeting ID: 938 0523 5192, Passcode: 850651
Board Members Present: Cindy Gotto, Pat Rea, Jay Wickham, Stacy Conforti and George Davis.
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, and Lisa Schroeder

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

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

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Jonah Reich, 23772 River Valley Dr., Sherrill, IA 52073, Troop 94. Presented mallard nest cylinders for nesting. Reich will work with the Delta Water Fowl Group and the Dubuque County Conservation on proper locations for the nesting cylinders. Motion to approve the Eagle Scout project for mallard nesting cylinders was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION, ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION:

Alzheimer's 5K and half marathon on August 21, 2021 from 7:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., estimated 250 participants. This has been an annual event, no issues in the past. The event will be subject to following current COVID restrictions if any at the time of the event. Motion to approve the special event application for the Heritage Trail Alzheimer's 5K and half marathon was made by Conforti and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION, DUBUQUE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE BIKE RIDE:

Applicant Ashley Stackis for Dubuque County Right to Life bike ride on June 13, 2021 from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., estimated 75 participants. The special event will be subject to following whatever the current COVID guidelines are at the time of the event. Motion to approve the special event application for the Heritage Trail was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR TRAIL CREW LEAD (1) AND TRAIL CREW MEMBERS (4):

Trail crew runs approximately June 14th thru July 30th, 2021. Members will work up to 40 hours a week for 6 weeks. The trail crew will work to complete trail improvements projects as well as other resource management projects. Motion to approve advertising for one trail crew leader and four trail crew members was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE NO. 1 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL:

The project consists of design and construction services associated with bridge no. 1 at approximately the same location. The county wants to minimize the amount of time Rupp Hollow Rd would be closed due to the replacement of bridge no 1. Prefabricated structure types that meet the hydraulic and permitting requirements as well as allow construction efforts that minimize the closure time for Rupp Hollow Rd. will be investigated for the site. The bridge site is within a mapped floodplain and a permit will be needed from Dubuque County and likely the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Proposed compensation to IIW for design development and bidding and services during construction total \$26,700.00. Budgeted for Heritage Trail bridge no. 1 is \$150,000.00. Motion to approve professional service proposal for Heritage Trail Bridge No. 1 was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

HERITAGE TRAIL FENCE REPLACEMENT:

Landowner West of Budd Rd. would like to pasture his land. We were unable to get a fencing bid. The location is a little difficult to get to and the terrain is a challenge to work with. We spoke to other adjacent landowners and found they

currently are having issues getting fencing bids. Motion to table the Heritage Trail fence replacement at the request of the director was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

DMATA TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM – HERITAGE TRAIL HARD SURFACING:

Funding for hard surface from Rupp Hollow Rd. to Durango approximately 4 miles. Part of this section sometimes floods so it's recommended to use concrete which would be more durable. Estimated design date October 1, 2021, estimated construction date June 1, 2022. Total cost estimate \$1,500,000.00, breakdown; \$100,000.00 Dubuque County Conservation Budget, \$900,000.00 COVID-19 Relief Rec. Trail Program Grant, \$500,000.00 DMATA transportation funds (TAP). Benefits for additional paved sections of the Heritage Trail would be increased use, ADA compatible, and long range plan promoting public health. Dallas County Conservation has a lot of hard surface trails and they recommend concrete. Rea stated he would like to see the entire Heritage Trail paved and working in phases would be a great idea. Gotto stated this would be a good start for phase one. Wickham likes that it ties back to the long range plan, but he is torn on the benefits between hard surface versus limestone. He felt if the goal was to attract more people from the outside area this would bring them in. This project would depend on the award of the DMATA Transportation funds (TAP) and the COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails Program funds. Motion to approve applying for the DMATA Transportation Alternatives program to hard surface part of Heritage Trail was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

COVID-19 RELIEF RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM – HERITAGE TRAIL HARD SURFACING:

In conjunction with the DMATA Transportation Alternatives program (TAP) to hard surface part of Heritage Trail. Resolution No. 21-0415 was read by Director Preston. Motion was made to approve applying for the COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails program and accept the Resolution No. 21-0415 as read by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Flooring at Massey is complete. All staff that wanted the COVID-19 vaccination have received at least the first shot. Iowa State University and the Iowa DNR will be doing a multispecies inventory and monitoring at Swiss Valley Preserve. The trees have arrived for the Mowing to Monarchs Program.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Gas docks ready to go at Massey. New walk and railings on the fishing dock at Massey. New entrance signs have been put in at the campgrounds and parks. Replace frost free hydrant at Swiss Valley. Cut and removed hazard trees and dead ash trees. Water is on at all the campgrounds. Prescribed burns at Swiss Valley. Seeding at Massey. Fire suppression completed at Massey. MSHA Training complete. Fencing checked along the Heritage Trail. Fillmore opened April 1st.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Wickham spoke on behalf of the Dubuque County Supervisors, the Supervisors will have a work session on Monday at 11:00 A.M. for the EB Lyons Partnership Agreement. Bob Miller, 3901 Short St., Dubuque, IA 52002, for the Friends group. Wanted to thank all who supported the Friends Group virtual pancake breakfast. He also suggested that the Eagle Scout put a few mallard nest cylinders at the Miller/McGrath Pond.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4:00 P.M., discussion to have the meeting in an open air pavilion at Swiss Valley Park with an electronic format Zoom option available. Weather permitting.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:57 P.M.