



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

JULY 15, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:04 P.M.

In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link,

<https://zoom.us/j/94813619007?pwd=L1NZZURNRTliVCtzZ25UMGR2VGZldz09>

Meeting ID: 948 1361 9007, Passcode: 105675

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:

Motion to approve the June 17, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Rea and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

URSUS IOWA INTRODUCTION:

John L. Hanson, ED.D. Founder of URSUS, gave a presentation on wanting to legalize the black bear in Iowa. The Black Bear has no legal standing in Iowa. URSUS mission is to support legalization of the Black Bear through education, scientific research and serve as an NGO adjunct to official efforts. Hanson encouraged the Dubuque County Conservation Board to report bear sightings and scat, adopt model legislation and transition to bear-aware campgrounds and infrastructure.

FLEXSTEEL SITE REUSE PLANNING:

Laura Carstens, Senior Planner for ECIA gave a presentation for the reuse of portions of the Flexsteel site. The term Brownfield site was introduced as a property that is or might be contaminated with asbestos, lead paint, petroleum, metals, chemicals, or other hazardous substances. ECIA Brownfields planning funds are 100% free to use, no match required. Recommended planning activities funded by the grant include; environmental site assessment, site reuse for Heritage Trail, wetlands, Heritage Trail fence relocated, trail realigned and parking. Reuse planning process is a focus group, public input and Dubuque County Conservation Board. Consultation with State Historic Preservation Office and funding applications to implement site reuse plan. Wickham was concerned what Flexsteel might be doing with the majority of the property. The Conservation Board was in favor of the Heritage Trail improvements and preserving additional wetlands.

LETTER OF INTENT FLEXSTEEL DONATION:

Motion was made by Davis to approve the signing of the letter of Intent for the Flexsteel donation and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE NO. 1 UPDATE:

Julie Neebel, PE, Transportation Team Leader, with Origin Design, formally known as IIW, spoke in regards to the rise, back water and modeling and shaping for the culverts under bridge one. Initial estimate was \$150,000.00 because of material increase and timeline to get materials is now longer the estimated cost has risen to \$250,000.00 - \$300,000.00. Neebel is looking for the actions the board would like Origin to take moving forward. The Conservation board would like Neebel to check with the County Engineer about the size of the culvert and length. Additional estimates on tank car option verses cast in place and the impact to Rupp Hollow Road.

BRIDGE INSPECTION PROPOSAL:

The last comprehensive bridge inspections were in 2016. It's an estimated \$7,500.00 to inspect and prepare a written recommendation for the bridges on Heritage Trail and New Wine. Motion to approve Origin Design to inspect Heritage Trail Bridges and New Wine Bridges was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

FINLEY'S LANDING DREDGING:

Finley's Landing harbor is very shallow. The site requires a hydraulic dredge. We have budgeted funds to dredge Massey Marina. At this time the dredge spoil site for Massey is full. There are two contractors interested but they have not started hauling the dirt at this time. So the request is to solicit bids for Finley's Landing dredging from the boat ramps to the end of the harbor. Motion to solicit bids for Finley's Landing dredging was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOND:

Board member George Davis prepared a resolution statue 2021-07-15. This resolution will hopefully provide more information for the Board of Supervisors. Motion to approve adoption of the resolution 2021-07-15 was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Iowa's County Conservation System Annual Fall Conference coming up September 15th thru the 17th in Ames, IA. Great opportunity to look at other counties and what they're doing. Dubuque County will be hosting the 2022 Conference. We had 29 applications for the Naturalist position. Hoping to wrap up interviews by the end of next week. The new part time volunteer coordinator position was approved by the Board of Supervisors. New Wine electrical had a 600 AMP transfer installed. New Wine campground will be 100% reservable the week of the MLB game in Dyersville. REAP meeting is scheduled for August 24th. Two tent platforms 10X14 completed along Heritage Trail. The platforms will be reservable and added to the MyCountyparks website. We are having issues ordering fire rings and picnic table frames. IPC parking lot is full most weekends, we are working to get the parking lot expanded. No storm damage at Fillmore, golfing has been strong. Still waiting on parts for the Finley Landing electrical upgrade. Hoping to have the 15 passenger van by September but no guarantee.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Repaired playground parts, tree cutting at Mud Lake, seeded streambank at nature preserve, cleared 55 stumps, finished tent platforms, Heritage Trail roadsides mowed, watered trees, cleared trees on trails, John Deere Marsh trimmed trees and patrolling. Interns and seasonals helped the DNR shock and identify fish at Swiss Valley.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Chuck Isenhardt, State Representative, 1665 Kaufmann Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001, suggested the public meeting for the Flexsteel project be held in the neighborhood for ease of public response. Working hard American Rescue plan on the state level. Funds for water structure, people impacted by the pandemic, looking forward to next year. Possible matches to the bond referendum. Update on the Land and Water Legacy, continuing to again more support, the Tri-State Mountain bikers have pledged there support. The Land and Water Legacy is open to answering all public questions and meeting with any individual or groups that would like more information. Isenhardt will look into new legislation that states counties are not allowed to close or condemn roads.

Jared McGovern, Curator of Conservation Programs at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, 12451 Oak Brook Pl, Dubuque, IA 52001, wanted to say Thank you to the Conservation Board. McGovern believes in the Land and Water Legacy and respects all the support from the board.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:02 P.M.