



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

AUGUST 19, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:01 P.M.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/94813619007?pwd=L1NZZURNRTIiVClzZ25UMGR2VGZldz09>

Meeting ID: 948 1361 9007, Passcode: 105675

Board Members Present: Cindy Gotto, Pat Rea, Jay Wickham, and Stacy Conforti

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston and Lisa Schroeder

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the July 15, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Nate Fisher, 14320 Green Hill Dr., Dubuque, IA 52003, Troop 7, Presented plans for an overlook by split rock along the Heritage Trail. Fisher attends Senior High School and is on the cross country team. He enjoys running on the Heritage Trail and that is why he choose this location for his Eagle Scout project. The overlook will be 12 X 12, it will be modeled after the Sageville overlook. Once the wire fence is removed he will start the project and finish with in a few weeks. Fisher is going to apply for a grant from the Friends Group and use the discount at Lowe's for supplies. Motion to approve the overlook by split rock on the Heritage Trail was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANS, SEPCIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED COST FOR THE DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE NO. 1 REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

Gotto opened the public hearing. Construction is estimated to start after October 15, 2021. The location is challenging and the pricing for the materials keeps risings. 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. Origin spoke with the County Engineer about the size of the culvert and length and it was determined that the tank car option would not work. Wickham would like to bring Origin back in for additional questions on possible other options to lower the cost. Conforti commented that with the rise in construction cost the estimates were not out of line. Rea commented that Origin has designed almost all the bridges on the Heritage Trail so he was confident in their recommendation. Gotto felt the rise in cost was not a design issue more of an issue with the cost of materials rising. Motion to close the public hearing was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried. Gotto closed the public hearing. Rea made a motion to proceed with putting Heritage Trail Bridge No. 1 out for bids and Conforti seconded. Wickham – Nay, Rea - Aye, Gotto- Aye, and Conforti – Aye, Motion carried.

MELLON SISTERS RACE AGAINST VIOLENCE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT:

5K run, walk starting at Heritage Pond. October 9th, estimated 300 participants, funds go to Victim Assistance, and this event has been held annually. No issues in the past. Preston recommend the board approve the application. Motion to approve the special event permit for the Mellon sister's race against violence was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

FINLEY'S LANDING DREDGING BIDS:

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. Preston has spoken with the budget director about this issue. We have three bids; Klein Dredging \$27,875.00, Frentress Lake Marine \$27,000.00 and Newt Marine \$60,000.00. Preston felt all three were reputable and would do a good job. Motion to award the Finley's Landing dredging bid to Frentress Lake Marine for \$27,000.00 was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

GREENS MOWER BIDS:

Special mower for greens on the golf course at Fillmore. No local dealers, used the nearest dealers in the area. The greens mower and rough mower have been budgeted. Toro - Greensmaster 3150-Q \$35,911.80, Turfwerks – Jacobsen GP400, \$34,120.00, John Deere – 2400 Precision cut, \$31,000.00. Rough mower bids were not listed on the agenda and will be moved to a special meeting. Motion to award the greens mower bid to John Deere for \$31,000.00 was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

2021 REAP PLAN AND REPRESENTATIVE:

REAP plan is a working progress. The plan allows us to apply for grants as they become available. The yearly REAP committee meeting is scheduled for August 24th at 3:00 PM, Dubuque County Court House. Preston would like to keep the REAP plan the same and update the dates. Motion to move the REAP plan to FY22-FY26 and nominate Pat Rea as the representative was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

SITE REUSE FOR FORMER FLEXSTEEL SITE: BROWNFIELDS, WETLANDS AND HERITAGE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS:

Laura Carstens, Senior Planner for ECIA gave an update for the reuse of portions of the Flexsteel site. ECIA Brownfields planning funds are 100% free to use, no match required. Recommended planning activities funded by the grant include; site reuse for Heritage Trail, wetlands, Heritage Trail fence relocated, trail realigned and parking. Carstens said the public meetings were going well. They planned to meet with the Friends group and the supervisors. Conforti asked when the Blackstone report would be back and if this project would align with the REAP goals. Carstens estimated the Blackstone report would be back in about a month and that would help with determining which grants we would want to apply for.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROJECTS:

Public health emergency plan. Increased usage of parks and open spaces since COVID. The increased usage has caused electrical problems and needed upgrades. Trail usage for public health has risen. Wickham encouraged the Conservation Board to apply for beneficial projects. Projects that improve the health of citizens. Preston suggested a work session for Monday at 2:00 PM to go over which projects the conservation would apply for. Nathan Gilmore, IT Director for Dubuque County approached the board about the American Rescue Plan in regards to broadband along the Heritage Trail. He would like the broadband money to be separate from what the Conservation Board would be asking the Supervisors to fund under the American Rescue Plan. Gilmore feels the concept he would like to submit falls under seed money from the American Rescue Plan to bring mid mild fiber conduit along Heritage Trail. This would allow for fiber to be brought to each home. Gilmore wanted to introduce this concept to the Conservation Board so they were aware of what he is proposing. Preston commented that the National Parks Service has some authority over what happens along the Heritage Trail.

SWISS VALLEY STREAM RESTORATION FINAL DESIGN, PERMITTING AND BIDDING:

Ryan Peterson with RDg gave an update on the proposal for the final design phase of Catfish Creek within Swiss Valley Park. Work is estimated to start in late October of 2021. The proposal includes moderate stream restoration and stabilization, recreational trail with accessible fishing areas, vegetation establishment and restoration and improvements to the campground parking lot. Motion to approve final design, permitting and bidding was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wickham shared with the Board that the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to support the Conservation Bond measure.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: The Naturalist position has been filled by Taylor Schaefer and the part time Outreach Coordinator position was filled by Kaytlan Moeller. We lost Bob Miller, a big supporter of the Friends group. Trail crew is finishing up and most have the seasonals have left. Storms hit the Sycamore trees in Swiss Valley Park. The North patrol truck is down, blown engine. Not sure how soon we will have a replacement.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:09 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER