



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
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Brian Preston, Director
Board Members:
Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:21 P.M. (Late start due to technical difficulties in the conference room)

In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link,
<https://zoom.us/j/96596391628?pwd=djl1b2sxNXVpRUt2KyttSUdZbTNLQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 9639 1628 Passcode: 307715

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

Absent: George Davis

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston and Lisa Schroeder

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the August 19, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Conforti and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the August 23, 2021 special meeting minutes as presented was made by Rea and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR EASEMENT FOR JOHN DEERE RD. BUILD GRANT PROJECT:

Anthony Bardgett, Dubuque County Engineer, went over the road improvements and additions to roundabouts for better flow of road traffic and safer intersections. Motion to approve the purchase agreement and easement for John Deere Rd. Build Grant Project was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

ELECTRIC/TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES EASEMENT MVEC:

Jeff Geistkemper, Fiber Plant Manager with Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, asking to go beyond the normal right away for underground electric and telecommunications lines. A twenty foot easement west of the west right of way of South John Deere road. Beginning at West John Deere Road and South John Deere Road intersection and extending south for approximately 2,750' to the south property line. Preston prefers underground over above power lines. Motion to approve the easement with MVEC was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE #1 REPLACEMENT:

Bids were opened and read at 1:00 PM on September 14, 2021. Six bids were received. After reviewing the bids it was determined that Progressive Structures LLC of Elkader Iowa for \$139,673.00 was the low bid. Origin recommended Progressive Structures LLC for the Heritage Trail bridge replacement. Motion to approve the award bid for Heritage Trail Bridge #1 replacement to Progressive Structures LLC for \$139,673.00 was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Art Roche, serves as chair of the Dubuque County Land and Water Legacy. Roche thanked the Conservation Board for petitioning the Supervisor's for the Bond Referendum. Roche said early voting will be starting soon.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR NORTH PATROL TRUCK REPLACEMENT:

We have budgeted for a new truck. The current truck as a blown engine. Motion to approve soliciting bids for north patrol truck was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HERITAGE TRAIL LIMESTONE SURFACING:

Every year we try to limestone 4 to 5 miles of trail. Preston spoke with Del Bischoff, Trail Manager about which sections needed limestone. Bischoff recommended between Girl Scout Rd and Potter Hill Rd. and between Dyersville and Jamesmeier Rd. Motion to approve soliciting bids for Heritage Trail limestone resurfacing was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

Heritage Trail, October 2, 2021, annual walk to end Alzheimer's, raise funds, awareness and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease and all other dementias through research and advocacy. Christine Emkes spoke a little about the walk and that Theisen's in Dyersville is a sponsor and Peter Theisen CEO will be at the event. Motion to approve the special event application for Heritage Trail, walk to end Alzheimer's was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

Heritage Trail, October 24, 2021, Brown's Hometown Victory Foundation, 5K haunted Heritage Trail fun run to benefit the foundations youth programs that aid in enhancing youth education and social and emotional health. Preston said this has been an annual event and they had had no problems in the past. Motion to approve the special event application for Heritage Trail, Brown's Hometown Victory Foundation was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

Swiss Valley Park, October 3, 2021, Dubuque County Land and Water Legacy, get out and vote music celebration. Motion to approve the special event application for Swiss Valley Park, Dubuque County Land and Water Legacy was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

SET HERITAGE TRAIL FEES FOR 2022:

Current fees; \$2.00 daily, \$10.00 individual annual, \$5.00 senior, 65 & over, annual, \$25.00 Family pass annual. Preston recommended keeping the fees the same. Affordable and the fees we collect help with applying for grants. Last fiscal year we collect \$30,000.00 in trail fees. Motion to keep the Heritage Trail fees the same as 2021 was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: We have been shorthanded the last few weeks. Park Rangers had several trainings and most of the seasonal help has finished up for the year. Finley's Landing dredging has started. Fretress Lake Marine and Sisler have been there the last week. We have also started the electrical upgrade at Finley's Landing and should be done by the end of September. The Army Corp of Engineers will be using some of the dredge soil for a habitat project to make an island along the Mississippi River. Schroeder Construction will start on Bridge 15 on the Heritage trail. RDG will present next month on the stream restoration project at Swiss Valley Park. McCarthy property will close in October. We plan to purchase a time lapse camera to document the change from corn to prairie. We would also like to purchase a couple of wildlife cameras to be placed on timber rattlesnake dens. This would be a great monitoring tool. We were sent a photo of a Sandhill crane and two young colts from a local wildlife photographer. They were spotted at the John Deere Marsh, very exciting to see them in this area. Arensdorf Construction used Gansen Excavating to remove the dredge soil at Massey. This was at no cost to us, and a great savings. We would like to hire Gansen Excavating to clean up the area and build the walls up for holding purposes, should be less than \$2,000.00. Fillmore green fees are looking good. Last week they had a little project replacing culverts on Fairway Road. In the past we have done park tours on October. Thought would be to have the park tours and then regular board meeting at 4:00 PM in the Nature Center.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:04 P.M.