



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

OCTOBER 21, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:00 P.M.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/94813619007?pwd=L1NZZURNRTIiVCtzZ25UMGR2VGZldz09>, Meeting ID: 948 1361 9007, Passcode: 105675

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler and Lisa Schroeder, Staff Members on Zoom: Taylor Schaefer, Kaytlan Moeller and Olivia Dove.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the September 23, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED COST FOR THE DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, SWISS VALLEY PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, CONTRACT A:

Gotto requested to open the public hearing. Motion to open the public hearing was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried. Ryan Peterson with RDg stated there were two contracts to give the project budget alternatives. The project budget is set at \$550,000.00. Contract A focuses more on the bluff stabilization and the stream restoration with accessible fishing areas. Michael Shimkus with WHKS & Company, structural engineer brought hard copies of plans and project manuals for contract A and B. Electronic copies may be obtained through Construction Update Plan Room – www.isqft.com. Contract B is more designed as a 2nd phase to the overall project for flexibility. Wickham asked Peterson to give more detail on the project scope, verify where along the stream the restoration would start and any highlights of the project. Stream flow realignment would start at the stream crossing in the park to stop the eroding of the bluff. Trees will need to be removed and some reused in a sand play area. There will still be an area for play along the stream crossing. The bluff stabilization plan is designed to stop erosion and look very natural. Some highlights would be the primitive camping along the stream and more organization to that area. Native landscaping and removal of invasive plants. The Iowa DNR evaluated the high flood events and helped design the stream flow plan. Motion to close the public hearing was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED COST FOR THE DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, SWISS VALLEY PARK LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, CONTRACT B:

Gotto requested to open the public hearing for contract B. Motion to open the public hearing for contract B was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried. Ryan Peterson with RDg stated that contract B for seeding is separate because of the native seeding contractors being prime and doesn't prohibit anyone but helps better the project. Looking at long term maintenance possible a 3 year extension. Motion to close the public hearing contract B was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 28E AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DUBUQUE, THE DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND FRIENDS OF THE MINES OF SPAIN FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE MINES OF SPAIN RECREATION AREA:

Formal agreement drafted. Change was made to page 10 section 12, and added signature page for the Dubuque County Supervisor. The agreement was approved by the resolution as well. Wickham asked if any members of the agreement would like to comment. Jennifer Tigges representative for the Friends of Mines of Spain, said the board approved an

amazing agreement. Center has been closed for almost 2 years. Looking forward to being open again for public use. Mare Ware representative for City of Dubuque, said what a benefit to the community as a whole. Opens more opportunities for education of our natural resources. A testament to all agencies working together. The city is very excited and a thank you to everyone for their efforts and support. Detra Dettmann representative for the Iowa DNR, said they are very excited as well. Fine example created with a strong group effort. Partnerships open other opportunities and glad to see the center reopened because it's a great place. Gotto feels this is a great thing. Wickham is excited about the partnership. He is still concerned about how much the DNR and City of Dubuque is contributing based on their budgets being larger than the County's. Wickham is pleased with the determination of the Friends of Mines of Spain and there the champions in this story. Motion to approve the 28E Agreement for the Mines of Spain Recreation Area was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR NORTH PATROL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT:

Two bids were received. Finnin Ford, 2022 Ford F150 Police Package Crew Cab \$39,725.00, delivery 120 days not responsible for delays due to chip shortage or pandemic. Victory Ford, 2022 Ford F150, W1P 150A Police Package \$36,861.70, delivery 16-18 weeks from time of order, plant delays possible. No trade due to the current North Patrol Vehicle engine not operating. We will try to sell out right. Motion to award the bid for the north patrol vehicle to Victory Ford for \$36,861.70 was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL LIMESTONE RESURFACING:

Three bids were received. River City Stone \$19,797.00, Kemp Trucking \$20,580.00 and Kluesner Construction \$19,698.00. Total about 4.5 miles of the trail will be resurfaced. Sections of trail for resurfacing are rotated each year. Motion to award the bid for Heritage Trail resurfacing to Kluesner Construction for \$19,698.00 was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR MASSEY MARINA UPPER HARBOR DREDGING:

Three bids were received. Newt Marine Service \$69,750.00, Frentress Lake Marine \$46,000.00 and Klein Dredging \$30,250.00. Preston said we have not worked with Klein before but that they dredged Dockside Marina. Wickham asked Klein if he had anything to share. Klein was unable to unmute/speaker issues, he gave a thumbs up. Motion to award bid for Massey Marina upper harbor dredging to Klein Dredging for \$30,250.00 was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR UPPER CATFISH CREEK FISH HABITAT PROJECT:

Five bids were received. Res Great Lakes, LLC DBA Applied Ecological Services Inc \$49,600.00, Mainline Excavating Company Inc. \$25,666.00, Connolly Construction Inc. \$19,188.00, Kueter Equipment Company \$29,730.00 and Gansen Excavating Inc. \$13,305.00. Rea made a motion to award Connolly Construction the bid. Gotto asked if he heard the bid numbers over zoom, Gansen was the lower bidder. Rea cancelled his motion. Motion to award bid for the upper Catfish Creek fish habitat project to Gansen Excavating Inc for \$13,305.00 was made by Rea and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION:

Heritage Trail, January 15, 2022, Triple D winter bike ride and run. Proceeds support TMBR trails maintenance and development. This event has been held annually for the past 15 years. Motion to approve the special event application for Heritage Trail was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR NATURALIST:

The Dubuque Community School district, in school program MOU has working together to pay half for a full time Naturalist. Position for a Naturalist was in the budget. Wickham asked if this was in addition to a Naturalist at EB Lyons and who would be staffing EB Lyons? Preston stated we would have two employees at EB Lyons, a Naturalist and one staff member. To start possibly a rotation in staff at the EB Lyons nature center. This position would give the county three Naturalists which will be needed to serve the Dubuque Community School MOU and public. Motion to approve advertising for a new Naturalist position was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY FROM IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION; LOT 2 OF MCCARTHY PLACE IN SECTIONS 16 & 21, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 87 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE 5TH P.M., DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA:

Robert McCarthy willed his property to the conservation for native planting and public hunting. This property is south of Dubuque off HWY 151 on McCarthy Rd. Motion to accept the McCarthy property from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Heritage Trail Bridge 1, contracts sent out. Heritage Trail Bridge 15 was bid out last spring, Schroeder Construction will start on November 1st. Finley's Landing electrical, water lines and dredging are complete. Certified letter from zoning on a parking variance for Peosta Properties. Asked the board if they had any comments. No comments or questions.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Upgraded the WIFI at Finley's Landing. Application in for Massey and Mud Lake to put poles inside the parks for WIFI. Finley's Landing boat slips and ramps back in the water. Culvert at Bowstring has been repaired. Banwarth has been mowing fire breaks. A lot of training the last few weeks. Volunteers Herb and Dave worked on fixing bridges in the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. Would like to look at making improvements around the Massey Concessionaire patio.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Preston said they had a cross country meet tonight and the golf course had a great year.

NATURALIST REPORT: Taylor Schaefer introduced Olivia Dove as one of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps Land and Water Stewards. We have two Green Iowa AmeriCorps Land and Water Stewards and they will be with us until August of 2022.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Chuck Isenhardt, 1665 Kaufmann Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001 spoke representing the Land and Water Legacy. Isenhardt encouraged attendance at the Dyersville Social Service Center on Thursday October 28th from 6 – 8 PM. This is another opportunity for citizens to ask questions and get information. Preston and Gotto both said they would be attending. The Friends group would be volunteering at the event as well. Isenhardt said call your neighbors and friends reminding them to vote November 2nd. You can check your voting location at <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/>

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER