



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

NOVEMBER 18, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:02 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, Pat Rea and George Davis, Board Members on Zoom: Jay Wickham, Absent: Stacy Conforti

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston and Lisa Schroeder,

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the October 21, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Rea and seconded by Davis.

Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Jonathan Park, Troop 91 – No Show

SWISS VALLEY PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, CONTRACT A:

Bids were opened Tuesday, November 16th at 11:00 A.M. Ryan Peterson with RDg shared the bid tabulation for Contract A. There were three bids submitted; Connolly Construction base bid \$618,611.60, Alternate #1 \$225,393.62, Alternate #2 \$27,284.84, Portzen Construction Inc. base bid \$1,186,453.00, Alternate #1 \$658,816.00, Alternate #2 \$95,844.00 and Midwest Concrete Inc. base bid \$1,200,532.05, Alternate #1 \$165,236.20, Alternate #2 \$19,170.00. The project budget is set at \$550,000.00. Contract A focuses more on the bluff stabilization and the stream restoration. Peterson stated after reviewing the bids and Connolly's qualifications, we are comfortable proceeding with them as the general contractor. When compared to the opinion of cost, the base bid from Connolly was \$56,026.60 (approximately 10%) more than we estimated. The Overage is due primarily to the limestone retaining wall. When evaluating Alternate #1, our opinion of cost was within \$116.38, favorable to Connolly's bid. When evaluating Alternate #2, the bid for the sand play area was \$5,984.84 more than our opinion of cost. We believe there are four primary scenarios to move forward with for Contract A: Option 1 – Accept Contract A Base bid from Connolly Construction of \$618,611.60, as they submitted. Option 2 – Accept a reduced Base bid from Connolly Construction; we would remove the temporary seeding, mulching and limestone blocks. The total value of these items is \$41,701.00, however due to cost efficiencies, Connolly would incur a higher mobilization cost for the erosion control, which would add approximately \$1,500 to this scope, so the net savings would be \$40,201.00, which would bring the Contract A value down to \$578,410.50. Option 3 – Accept the Base bid and the two add alternates for Contract A, which would bring the total value of the contract to \$871,290.06. Option 4 – Accept a reduced base bid (remove the temporary seeding, mulching and limestone blocks (+ \$1500 for a higher mobilization) for a total savings of 40,201.00) and add the two add alternates for Contract A which would bring the Contracted Amount to \$831,089.06. When evaluating the Contract A project as a whole, the bid was 2.6% more than our opinion of cost, but seems reasonable given the increasing cost of materials and labor. RDg's opinion, the best value for the county would be to move forward with Contract A, Option 2 or if funds can be reallocated from other sources, proceed with option 4. Preston said the flood of 2011 caused a lot of erosion and the creek crossing is in need of repair. We could also apply for a fish habitat grant for some of the streambank work as another sources of funds. The staff is in support of this repair and would work to take on the seeding and mulching needed for the project. Motion to award the bid for Contract A, option 2 to Connolly Construction for \$578,410.50 was made by Davis and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

SWISS VALLEY PARK LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, CONTRACT B:

Bids were opened Tuesday, November 16th at 11:00 A.M. Ryan Peterson with RDg shared the bid tabulation for Contract B. There was only one bid submitted from Res Great Lakes LLC base bid \$58,871.00, Alternate #1 \$16,800.00.

Peterson presented the recommended options: Option 1 – Move forward and accept the base bid of \$58,871.00. This is \$17,521 more than our opinion of cost. Option 2 – Move forward and accept the base bid + the alternate (Add 16,800) for a total of \$75,671.00. Together, this cost is \$13,679 less than our opinion of cost. Option 3 – Reject all bids and have the County Staff complete this scope of work. When evaluating the Contract B project as a whole, the bid was 15.3% less than our opinion of Cost. Regarding Contract B, we would suggest Option 3. Contract B was more designed as a 2nd phase to the overall project for flexibility. Motion to reject all bids for Contract B was made by Rea and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

2022 RECREATIONAL USER FEES:

Reviewed current fees and proposed increases. Boat slips have been raised the last two years so no increase proposed. Camping has not been raised since 2015. County cost has increased for sanitation and electricity. Preston suggested raising camping, electricity and dump station by two dollars each. Fillmore Fairways would like to raise golfing fees by a dollar. Season passes, single raise by fifty dollars and junior by twenty five dollars. No increase was suggested for pavilion rental. Motion to approve the proposed recreational user fee increases was made by Davis and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

WILDLIFE HABITAT STAMP DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION:

McCarthy Wildlife Area Development is located 9.5 miles southwest of the City of Dubuque and 1.5 miles northwest of the town of Bernard. We propose to restore the property by planting 70 acres of diverse native prairie, a 3 acre winter shelterbelt, 10 acres of alfalfa for nesting/brooding area, 6 acres of food plots, 3 acres of future wetland and 8 acres of firebreak mix. A small parking area will be constructed on the east side of the property along McCarthy Road. Robert McCarthy willed his property to the conservation for native planting and public hunting. This grant would be for the seed cost, trees, shrubs and weed mat. Total project cost is estimated at \$29,370.00. Grant request is for \$22,000.00. \$7,370.00 Dubuque County Conservation budget. Motion to approve applying for the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant was made by Rea and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

FY 21 ANNUAL REPORT:

Preston went over the Annual Report and highlighted some projects that were completed; Replaced Bridge 2 on Heritage Trail, Constructed New Pavilion at Finley's Landing, Completed Stream Bank Stabilization at New Wine Park, Replacement of Restroom at Fillmore Recreation Area, Installation of Fishing Dock at Massey Marina and Acquired Additional Land at Bowstring Wildlife Area. Volunteer program has grown to nearly 750 volunteers. They were able to contribute over 2,610 volunteer hours. Volunteer hours are valued at \$28.54/hour, totaling over \$74,489 worth of work accomplished by volunteers. Motion to approve the FY21 Annual Report was made by Davis and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ryan Peterson with RDg presented the board with an Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects. In recognition of outstanding professional achievement for the Dubuque County Conservation Comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler is off work due to surgery. All parks have been winterized. Docks have been moved for protection. Dredging at Massey will start next spring. Staff have completed CPR, AED and firearms training. Volunteer projects completed at Bowstring, Sunnycrest prairie restoration and cedar tree removal. New Wine bridge replacement and tree cages removed. New bridges at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. Emergency contact signs on docks per Army Corps Engineers. Bridge 15 on the Heritage Trail will be opening soon. Heritage Trail resurfacing is complete and the rubber has been placed on the bridges for snowmobile use. Will be starting to interview for the Naturalist position. Budget will be due in December for FY2023, set up a date for work session, Monday December 6, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. Golf course is closed and winterized. Meeting with Dawn Sherman to discuss seasonal wage increase. Outdoor Adventures is going well, 2nd grade is complete.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jim Rolling, President of the Friends Group, was very thankful for the volunteer's efforts and appreciated the County providing tools they requested.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

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

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER