



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

13606 Swiss Valley Road
Peosta, IA 52068
563.556.6745
www.dubuquecountyia.gov

Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

DECEMBER 6, 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/91807659980?pwd=dUdBV0hQQ2RRTmpXUHFIS0JSdi9WUT09>

Meeting ID: 918 0765 9980, Passcode: 886815

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston and Lisa Schroeder, Zoom: Kaytlan Moeller

BUDGET WORK SESSION FOR FY 2023:

Started with revenue; suggested increase as follows; Golf fees from \$140,000.00 to \$150,000.00, Other Rec Fees \$270,000.00 to \$300,000.00. Everything else remained the same as FY2022. Park Maintenance/Operation Expenditures; suggested adjustments, metals from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00, sign materials \$10,000.00 to \$7,000.00, parts \$9,000.00 to \$6,000.00, fuels \$35,000.00 to \$42,000.00, uniforms \$3,900.00 to \$4,200.00, printing services \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00, electric service \$55,000.00 to \$70,000.00, other charges \$18,370.00 to \$30,000.00. Everything else remained the same as FY2022. The biggest adjustment was in other charges due to needing a line item for trail/road repair. County Auditor, Kevin Dragotto is researching if we can add this line item. Recreation services expenditures (Fillmore); suggested adjustments, minor equipment and hand tools \$200.00 to \$400.00 and sanitation disposal service \$3,000.00 to \$3,500.00. Davis commented everything is going up so now is the time to budget for what we need. Went over vehicles and equipment replacement needs for a total of \$207,000.00. Discussed project maintenance request for a total of \$202,600.00. Prioritized Capital Expenditures as follows; trail counters \$14,500.00, Mowing to Monarchs \$30,000.00, Massey lower patio \$30,000.00, Massey patio furniture \$15,000.00, Forestry Mower \$11,000.00, Pit latrines at Whitewater Canyon and Heritage Trail Budd Road access \$40,000.00, Land Acquisition fund \$250,000.00, Bankston Pond \$150,000.00, Heritage Trail Connections \$175,000.00, water trails \$100,000.00, completion of the Swiss Valley Park stream restoration, and Finley's Landing upgrades \$175,000.00. Moeller presented information on TRAFx trail counters and why they are important. Trail counters provide valuable information on the number of users at each area. This information helps with grant writing and guides us in what amenities are needed in which areas. Moeller also presented information on the Mowing to Monarchs program and how it is a huge success. She would like to continue this program and expand to include prairie strips. Preston said we have three projects waiting approval for ARP (American Rescue Plan Act) Cabins and New Wine, Heritage Trail – Graf water system, and adding amenities at the Heritage Pond Campground. Davis asked if as a board there has been any discussion about ATV trails. What does it take to start the process? Preston felt the best opportunities would be in the western area of the county. Preston said he would meet with the local ATV group and get their feedback on amount of land that is required and their thoughts. Wickham shared a few items he would like the board to look at; better access at Finley's beach/sand bar, Mud Lake a bridge and trail, IPC bathrooms, Heritage Trail connection by HWY 3. Davis, Gotto and Rea all agreed their ideas of improvements were very close. Rea did request the road and parking at Swiss Valley Nature Pressure needs to be addressed. Preston said we are possible looking into other alternative for the parking issues. Water trails were mentioned in the long range plan but the design will not be finished until next year sometime. We may need to ask for a budget amendment if possible. Davis volunteered to attend the budget presentation to the Supervisors with Preston in January 2022. Preston said for next year having more staff involved to present needs for each area. E.B. Lyons budget is in to Stella the budget director. Motion to approve the proposed FY2023 budget was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler is off work due to surgery. Currently interviewing for the Naturalist position. Closed last week on the McCarthy Property. There will be an NRCS soil study done on the McCarthy property. We

should also look at updating the project list in the long range plan. Some of the projects have been completed and some new opportunities have presented themselves. The ICCS Fall conference will be held in Dubuque next year.

NEXT MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:44 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER