



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Cindy Gotto
Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis

DECEMBER 16, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Cindy Gotto at 4:03 P.M.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/94813619007?pwd=L1NZZURNRTliVCtzZ25UMGR2VGZldz09>

Meeting ID: 948 1361 9007, Passcode: 105675

Board Members Present: Cindy Gotto, Pat Rea, Jay Wickham, George Davis and Stacy Conforti (4:09 PM)

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Mike White, Taylor Schaefer and Lisa Schroeder, Zoom: Olivia Dove

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the November 18, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Rea and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the December 6, 2021 special budget work session meeting minutes as presented was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENT:

Alliant Energy is upgrading their facilities in the Dyersville area near 29943 Olde Hawkeye Rd. In order to perform this work they are requesting an easement to cross under the Heritage Trail East of the driveway to the listed address. Preston recommended approving the easement because the lines would be protected underground and look more aesthetically pleasing. Heather Dee with Alliant Energy said additional customers would benefit from this as well. Motion to approve the underground electric line easement was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

FY22 AND FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET:

Largest increase between budgets were fuel and electricity. Still working with the HR Director on seasonal wage adjustments. Motion to approve the budget worksheet was made by Davis and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the proposed capital expenditures, vehicle and equipment request and project request was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstain due to conflict of interest.

TRAINING REQUEST FOR STAFF:

Wilderness First Aid Course for Naturalist. This is a two day course that will prepare participants for a wide variety of emergency situations. Winterfest 2022 has over 30 educational sessions to choose from during the three day event, looking to send 6 employees. Motion to approve training request for staff was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler will be returning to work on lite duty in January. Bridge 15 on the Heritage trail is complete and open. Staff just completed the railing last week. Jason Denlinger has accepted the Naturalist position and will be starting around December 28th. Jason comes to us with a lot of work experience, a masters and speaks four languages. Mud Lake was without power for a night due to the high wind storm. Took a day to clean up the Heritage Trail from down trees and debris. Closing is set with the City of Sageville for December 30, 2021. Pre-construction meeting complete for the Swiss Valley Park stream restoration. McCarthy soil survey complete and looking at about 4 acres of wetland.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Mike White said it was a good season. Irrigation system has been winterized. The new tractor was a big help this year. Finishing up equipment maintenance. Looking ahead at the future for a new club house. Everything is outdated and inefficient.

NATURALIST REPORT: Taylor Schaefer said Outdoor Adventures is going well. Third grade is complete and second grade fished up in November. Schaefer showed a video the school put together of the program. Working on day camps and planning summer camps. Iowa State Extension office will be helping with Kindergarten. LEAP is an after school program at Jefferson and Washington. Sunnycrest prairie restoration went well, over 60 people participated.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the December bills was made by Conforti and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Preston presented Cindy Gotto with a plaque for her years of service on the board. Jackie Kehr will be the new board member starting in January. Kehr will have board member orientation next week.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:49 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER