



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

JANUARY 20, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Pat Rea at 4:00 P.M.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/91938549094?pwd=TUpYU3pMY01YYXI5UGFoN3FYVBMUT09>

Meeting ID: 919 3854 9094, Passcode: 615491

Board Members Present: Pat Rea, George Davis and Stacy Conforti, Zoom: Jay Wickham and Jackie Kehr

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Jason Denlinger and Lisa Schroeder

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the December 16, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham.
Motion carried with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstain due to not being appointed to the board until January.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Preston called for nominations for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. Conforti nominated Rea for Chairperson and Davis seconded. Conforti nominated Wickham for Vice-Chairperson and Davis seconded. Davis nominated Conforti for Secretary and Wickham seconded. Motion to approve Rea as Chairperson, Wickham as Vice-Chairperson and Conforti as secretary was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Brandon Kass, 2295 School View Dr., Asbury, IA 52002, Troop 7. Tree planting at IPC. Shared a power point on the type of trees and the process. Motion to approve Brandon Kass Eagle Scout Project was made by Conforti and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION:

Heritage Trail, August 20, 2022, Alzheimer's Association half marathon and 25 mile bike race. Proceeds go to Alzheimer's Association. This event has been held the past 10 years. The bike race is new and they are aware they need to follow trail etiquette. Motion to approve the special event application for the Alzheimer's Association was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER #1 FINAL FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE #15 REPLACEMENT:

Increase in trail surfacing and rip rap. Preston was on site and more rock was needed. Final change order of \$578.04. Motion to approve the change order of \$578.04 for bridge #15 on the Heritage Trail was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE #15 REPLACEMENT:

Origin performed a site visit to Heritage Trail Bridge #15. Final project construction cost \$83,558.44. We will retain \$4,177.92 for 30 days. Approval and acceptance will start the one year warranty period. Motion to approve and accept the completion of Heritage Trail Bridge #15 was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT #5 LEASE NO. DACW25-1-01-4016 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RIP RAP ARCH WALL UPSTREAM OF MASSEY BOAT RAMP AND A GRAVEL CANOE/KYAK LAUNCH:

Site specific conditions to approve part of the leased premises referred to as Massey Marina: rip rap rock within the side channel of Massey Slough and a gravel boat, canoe/kayak ramp launch area for recreational purposes. Preston stated we would still need to get permits from the DNR flood plan management and Iowa Natural Resources. We could utilize funds from the cover aggregate line item in the budget. Motion to approve US Army Corps of Engineers supplemental agreement No. 5 lease no. DACW25-1-01-4016 was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

APPROVAL FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 5 ON BEHALF OF THE DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD:

Motion to approve Executive Director Preston to sign supplemental agreement No. 5 lease no. DACW25-1-01-4016 was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR BOWSTRING WILDLIFE AREA STREAMBANK STABILIZATION:

230' of streambank stabilization, 3:1 slope, 16' wide creek crossing. The current bridge is only rated for 3 ton, which prohibits the conservation from taking construction equipment to the wildlife area for management purposes. Kehr asked if the culvert parallel to the channel should be looked at as well. Preston said they would like to remove the culvert once the current landowner vacated the property. Motion to approve soliciting bids for Bowstring Wildlife area streambank stabilization was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING REQUEST:

Spring IAN Workshop 2022 – Jackson County for Kaytlan Moeller and Jason Denlinger. Great learning opportunities. Needs board approval since the workshop is outside of Dubuque County. Motion to approve training request was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Conforti was glad to see movement forward on the issues with Massey Boaters. Rea asked where we were at with the Sageville property and vacating of the road. Preston said the County Engineer would be taking the request to vacate the road to the Supervisors. Conservation budget meeting is set for January 31st at 1:00 PM and they will have a zoom link.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Seasonal wages have been increased. Sherman will make adjustments to the wage portion of the budget. Dubuque Water trails is looking for volunteers for a steering committee. Suggested sub-groups for each stream which would meet individually and also in an overall steering group. Rea will volunteer on the North Fork Maquoketa sub group, Kehr will volunteer on the Little Maquoketa sub group, Conforti will volunteer on the Lytle Creek sub group and Wickham the Dubuque County super steering group. Sub-Groups will be responsible for reviewing/edit comments to existing conditions chapter, providing initial recommendations for conservation or improvements and signing off on final list of recommendations. Tentative first event is scheduled for June 4th as a kickoff. We received a notice for the reconstruction of HWY 3 to take place in 2024. They are proposing to close the Heritage Trail from Clay Hill Road to Durango for a year. The documentation has been forwarded to the County Attorney for review. A *de Minimis* impact determination finding does not require an evaluation of alternatives and therefore does not require a determination that there are no feasible and prudent avoidance alternatives. A *de Minimis* impact determination does not require demonstration of all possible planning to minimize harm. County Attorney will hopefully give us some additional options; the streambanks in the area need to be evaluated, there is federally listed species at Pohlman Prairie. Sisler has not been released for work yet. Busy snowplowing, pruning trees, Triple D race went well, maintenance on mowers. Banwarth and Dove have been reviewing forest management plans. Jan Miller has approached the Conservation Board about purchasing the cabin next to the Miller McGrath Wildlife area. Miller would like to sell it for the assessed value of \$55,000.00 for 2 acres and a cabin. All board member were very excited and see additional opportunities.

NATURALIST REPORT: Jason Denlinger presented a power point with programs and attendance. Working on day camps and planning summer camps. Summer camp registration will open in February.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the January bills was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Kehr and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:31 P.M.