



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

FEBRUARY 24, 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/92257531756?pwd=am9SdktlOUlVUXJvSVRJdmpTS3E4dz09>

Meeting ID: 922 5753 1756, Passcode: 916170

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston and Lisa Schroeder. Zoom: Nate Sisler and Taylor Schaefer

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the January 20, 2022 meeting minutes as presented was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR BOWSTRING WILDLIFE AREA STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT:

Bids were opened at 2:00 P.M. today and entered into a bid tabulation sheet. 640 tons of class E rip rap with excavation and placement. Bids totaled as followed: Connolly Concrete \$46,080.00, Connolly Construction Inc. \$26,350.00, Demmer Dirt Company \$16,300.00, Gansen Excavating \$22,240.00, JPT Inc. \$26,180.00, Kueter Equipment Co. \$21,020.00, Mainline Excavating Co. Inc. \$28,666.00, McAuliffe Excavating \$46,507.20, Weber Construction \$24,900.00. Motion to approve awarding the Bowstring Wildlife Area streambank stabilization project to Demmer Dirt Company for \$16,300.00 pending Preston confirming there was not miscalculations on the bid sheet submitted, if there was any miscalculations the award would go to Kueter Equipment Co. for \$21,020.00 was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

LAND ACQUISITION, MILLER/MCGRATH WILDLIFE AREA:

Jan Miller has offered the purchase of two acres with a cabin for a purchase price of \$57,000.00. Preston stated this is the assessed value of the property. The Miller family has requested we name the cabin the "Bob Miller Cabin" and the family would have a free weekend rental annually. Currently this a primitive cabin with no running water. Conforti asked if we would hire a management company? Preston said he would like to take it slow and see how many reservations we receive. Kehr and Conforti asked about porta potty rental or a permanent pit latrine. Preston said we would start with a rental of a porta potty but ideally look into the future of a pit latrine. Kehr asked were the funding for improvements would be obtained. Purchase of the property comes from the land acquisition fund, porta potty rental from the daily operation budget and improvements would have to be budgeted annually. Motion to approve the purchase of 20524 Girl Scout Rd., Epworth, IA 52045, from the Miller Family Living Trust for \$57,000.00 was made by Conforti and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

Heritage Trail, May 7, 2022, MVRA 5K/10K fun run. Preston said this has been an annual event which has always gone well. Motion to approve the special event application for MVRA was made by Kehr and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

Heritage Trail, October 8, 2022, Dubuque/Delaware Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2022 Mellon Sisters 2K/5K fun run race. Preston said this is their 12th annual event and would recommend approval. Motion to approve the special event application for Dubuque/Delaware Coalition again domestic violence was made by Kehr and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

Proving Grounds, June 4, 2022, Iowa Scholastic Mountain Bike League, Mountain bike race with support from TMBR. Preston said this event would be the second bike race held at the Proving Grounds. Motion to approve the special event application for Iowa Scholastic Mountain Bike League was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

SKID STEER TRACK REPLACEMENT:

Martin Equipment and Bodensteiner Implement provided quotes. Zig Zag rubber track 320 or 400 MM. Both quotes were the same. Preston recommended Martin Equipment zig zag rubber track 400 MM for \$3,098.52. Motion to approve Martin Equipment skid steer track replacement for \$3,098.52 was made by Kehr and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

MASSEY MARINA CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

River's Massey, Shawn Kelly and Jody Lovett would like to continue as concessionaires at Massy Marina. Increase to insurance is for Pollution control for gas docks. Motion to approve Massey Marina Concession agreement with Rivers Massey was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

FILLMORE RECREATION AREA CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

Divot's Golf Shop, Jeff Morriem would like to continue as the concessionaire for Fillmore Fairways. Monthly rental is \$3,000.00 a month from April 1, 2022 thru October 31, 2022. Payments will be prorated due to the result of weather, flooding or other conditions that result in the closure of the facility. Last year there was a misunderstanding about severe weather protocol. Preston said he will have a meeting with both concessionaries to review storm event procedures. Motion to approve Divot's Golf Shop as concessionaire for the Fillmore Recreation Area Concession agreement was made by Kehr and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

ARMY CORPS REPORT:

This is an annual report that the Army Corps requires us to provide. The report highlights any improvements within the last year to Mud Lake, Massey Marina and Little Maquoketa River Delta (John Deere Marsh). We also provide financials for Mud Lake and Massey Marina. Motion to approve the report to the Army Corps was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kehr referred to the budget meeting with Dubuque County Supervisors and McDonough's question on if the Conservation would pursue another bond referendum. Should discussion time be set aside at the next board meeting? Wickham felt discussion about the funds we have now would be more appropriate. Conforti felt we lost by such a small margin, gathering information on the areas we lost and why would be beneficial. Davis would like to know what dates would be available to request another vote? Do we have to wait six months? Rea and Wickham both agreed there is no need to rush into another vote. Wickham suggested focus toward the American Rescue funds application. Preston said we have applied for funding on three project, Water source for Graf, 3 cabins at New Wine Park and developing Heritage Pond Campground to be more of a destination point. Preston said we should also look at our long range plan. We have completed some of the projects and some of the focus has changed over the last year. There will be a discussion at the next board meeting to prioritize projects, build our brand, and look at fund sources.

Preston introduced Jared McGovern, Curator of Conservation Programs for the National Mississippi River Museum. McGovern presented a power point showing what the funds for Take CAARE were used for and what is still in the works. McGovern was proud to connect members of our community directly to authentic conservation action through hands-on experiences. McGovern would like the Conservation Board to endorse his FY2023 Request for \$30,000.00 in financial support for staffing ten voyageur canoe trips. Motion to endorse recommending approval to the Board of Supervisors for the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Take CAARE program was made by Kehr and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Grant for the McCarthy property was approved. We have to investigate the previous chemicals used on the fields. If atrazine was used it would kill native plants. Will have additional update in March. We have started to advertise for conservation aides and grounds maintenance positions. Bridge inspections were completed by Origin. Looking at three repairs in the next five years. Budgeted for FY2022, Heritage Trail fencing replacement. We had Hulscher and Heiar Fencing give us quotes for two areas along the Heritage Trail. Heiar Fencing and Supply Inc was the low bid at \$4,991.50 of continuous fence by bridge 15. Hulscher Fencing Inc was the low bid at \$2,900.00 for fencing along Heritage Trail at Steffensmeier property. Motion to approve fencing bids along the Heritage Trail to Heiar Fencing and Supply for \$4,991.50 and Hulscher Fencing Inc for \$2,900.00 was made by Rea and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Cutting trees, producing firewood, cleaned up McCarthy Area, removed oriental bittersweet at Finley's Landing, using up comp time. Still on light duty, working at EB Lyons, serviced furnaces and inspected fire extinguishers. EB Lyons had about 350 users over the last month, a large portion of users were groups for yoga classes.

NATURALIST REPORT: Taylor Schaefer gave an update on usage and programs. Over 60 different families have tried snow shoeing. We had a total of over 300 people participate in the 3 night hikes. Home school groups

have been ice fishing, a non-profit group She Unites participated in a guided hike at Whitewater Canyon. Green Iowa AmeriCorps removed invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle and cleaned and repaired wood duck and kestrel boxes. Upcoming events first grade outdoor adventures, spring field trips, landowner workshop, becoming an outdoor women and water quality testing.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

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

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER