



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
13606 Swiss Valley Road
Peosta, IA 52068
563.556.6745
www.dubuqu countyiowa.gov

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

APRIL 21, 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://us06web.zoom.us/j/85472380772?pwd=Q3RIRkplWk16SnlsQ1RBNkhpbkRNQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7238 0772, Passcode: 351919

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

Staff Members Present: Nate Sisler, Jason Denlinger and Lisa Schroeder. Zoom: Brian Preston and Kaytlan Moeller

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the March 24, 2022 meeting minutes as presented was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham.
Motion carried.

FLEXSTEEL SITE REUSE PLAN:

Chris Wesseln, ECIA, cwesseln@ecia.org and Emily Smart, Geologist, Blackstone Environmental, esmart@blackstone-env.com presented a site overview for the Flexsteel site reuse plan. Site overview showed potential improvement areas with the fence relocation and trail realignment, possible additional parking, improvements in the wetland areas and a better crossing at Peru Rd. and East 32nd intersection. Wickham asked for a time line and how this process would work. Preston said Flexsteel would present the Conservation Board with a letter of intent to donate a portion of the property. The Conservation Board would decide if they wanted to accept the donation. No firm timeline on when testing will be completed. Flexsteel and the City of Dubuque are working on an agreement for the pump station which is located on a portion of the property.

AWARD BID FOR TRUCK:

We received 3 bids; Runde Auto Group, East Dubuque, 2022 Chevrolet 1500 4X4 regular cab, total bid price \$41,500.00, estimated delivery 10-14 weeks from order date, Turpin Dodge, Dubuque, will not be quoting a bid due to the unknown availability at the factory, Finnin Ford, Dubuque, 2023 Ford F-150 4X4 regular cab, total bid price \$44,334.00, estimated delivery 90-120 days, delivery time cannot be guaranteed because of chip shortage & COVID, Victory Ford, Dyersville, 2022 Ford F-150 4X4 regular cab, total bid price \$37,310.00, estimated delivery 6-8 months from order date not including any plant delays, Victory Ford, Dyersville included an alternative bid that doesn't meet exact bid specifications, 2022 Ford F-150 4X4 regular cab, total bid price \$36,990.00, currently in stock and available for immediate delivery. The rear axle, anti-spin differential is the only specification not included. Both Preston and Sisler felt this was not as necessary since it's a 4-wheel drive truck. Wickham asked where the funds would come from since this was a FY2023 budget item. Preston explained we are still waiting on the 2022 North Patrol truck ordered in FY2022 so we could exchange these two trucks on the budgets. Motion to approve Victory Fords alternative bid for \$36,990.00 for a 2022 Ford F-150 4X4 regular cab was made by Wickham and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR PARK RANGER AND TRAIL CREW:

The Dubuque County Trail Crew runs approximately from June 13th thru July 22, 2022. Members will work up to 40 hours a week for 6 weeks. The crew is made up of 4 members and 1 leader. The crew will work to complete trail improvements projects as well as other resource management projects. In addition they will receive four hours of environmental and life skills education each week.

Motion to approve advertising for a crew leader was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

Motion to approve advertising for four crew members was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

Permanent Resident Park Ranger, full-time position, will function as both law enforcement and park maintenance for all areas in the county park system. Update job description to indicate the Ranger will live on site. Kehr requested looking at all job posting and updating the descriptions. Wickham agreed working with the professional staff we have for these items

and getting them involved. Motion to approve advertising for a resident Park Ranger was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS FOR HERITAGE TRAIL:

St. Vincent DePaul, September 24, 2022, fund raising event by walking, running or biking Heritage Trail.

Motion to approve the special event application for St. Vincent DePaul for September 24, 2022 was made by Wickham and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

DCFPC and Limestone Bluffs RC&D, June 21, 2022, farm to table dinner intended to bring together local farmers and producers with consumers and support local food systems. Danielle Stowell, 1667 Jackson St., Dubuque, IA 5200, joined via Zoom to answer questions about the event. Kehr and Wickham raised concern about parking and possible traffic on Asbury Road. Preston felt we could contact the Dubuque County engineer and get a temporary sign to alert people to an event and additional turning traffic. Kehr also suggested two rangers to help with direction of traffic. Stowell said they are looking at renting a trolley to transport people from Heritage Pond parking area to Twin Springs. Stowell said the invitations to the event will encourage people to walk or bike to the Twin Springs location as well.

Motion to approve the special event application for DCFPC and Limestone Bluffs RC&D for June 21, 2022 was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

CONVERSION OF TURF TO PRAIRIE:

Jackie Kehr, Board Member, gave a presentation on mowing reduction in Dubuque County. She would like to see the Conservation Board pledge to convert at least 5 acres of turf grass per year for FY2023, FY2024 & FY2025 to appropriate native habitat. Generate informational signage to each new planting and include a link to the Mowing to Monarchs program. Sisler showed estimated areas at Graf Park, Mud Lake, Little Maquoketa River Mounds, Bankston and Fillmore for converting turf grass to prairie. Little Maquoketa River Mounds was talked about last meeting and Fillmore we will need to talk with Mike White. Preston said the strategic plan suggested 30% and this would be a good start. Wickham suggested starting with the parks and Sisler getting more targeted areas at Bankston. Conforti felt large flat areas would be hard for the public to give up and information is key. Moeller gave information about two areas at Swiss Valley Park the Mowing to Monarch's program started last year and would be good examples for the public.

HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE NO. 1 REPLACEMENT – CHANGE ORDER NO. 1:

Material was needed to stabilize the existing soils under the proposed box culvert. An additional 122.26 of rock was added. Motion to approve the change order No. 1 increase of \$2,457.43 for Heritage Trail Bridge No. 1 replacement was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE NO. 1 REPLACEMENT – CONTRACT PAYMENT NO. 1:

Progressive Structures LLC has requested contract payment No. 1 for \$136,250.73. Bridge No. 1 on the Heritage Trail is complete except for the final grades. Motion to approve contract payment No. 1 in the amount of \$136,250.73 for Heritage Trail Bridge No. 1 replacement was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT FOR MCCARTHY WILDLIFE AREA:

The Natural Resource Commission approved the Dubuque County Conservation Board application for Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds. The cost-share portion of the grant is not to exceed \$22,000.00. Motion to approve Wildlife Habitat Grant #22-06W for McCarthy Wildlife area development and authorize Brian Preston, Director to sign was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

STUMP GRINDING:

Stump grinding at Mud Lake and Finley's Landing, from the removal of dead Ash Trees. Total of 51 stumps, 29 at Mud Lake and 22 at Finley's Landing. We have three estimates, Kutsch's Tree Service \$6,250.00, Douglas Timber Solutions \$6,520.00 and Schuster Tree Service \$6,500.00. These stumps create a liability and trip hazard. Motion to approve Kutsch's Tree Service for \$6,250.00 for stump grinding at Mud Lake and Finley's Landing was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: We were not approved for the Community Forestry Grant. Closed on the Miller Cabin March 25th. The DOT is looking at options around Pohlman Prairie, possible easements along Heritage Trail, they need approval from the National Parks Service. Water is up and running in the parks and campgrounds.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Burning has started, mowing burn breaks, fishing and gas docks at Massey are set and ready, fixed a water leak at New Wine, groups of volunteers helped with picking up sticks and removing invasive species. EB Lyons had about 753 users over the last month, including school groups.

NATURALIST REPORT: Jason Denlinger gave an update on school events and programs. March 1,460 and April 611+ since March is not over yet. These numbers include school outreach, 4th grade outdoor adventures, and Scout programs. Partnered with Loras College on bird banding and set up a booth for high school career fairs. Upcoming programs: Kindergarten outdoor adventures, water trails, starry night hike, rain barrel workshop, birds and blooms hike, and family forestry.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the April 2022 payables was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:01 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER