



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

MAY 19, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Meeting was called to order by Pat Rea at 4:02 P.M.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82790052875?pwd=R3d6K0xJUmFUUHQxbnVFeIN3dE1MzZ09>

Meeting ID: 827 9005 2875, Passcode: 469752

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

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the April 21, 2022 meeting minutes as presented was made by Kehr and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS FOR HERITAGE TRAIL:

Sundown Mountain, September 24, 2022, bow shooting course, this event will be along the side of Heritage Trail not on the trail. First time for this event, bow shoot will be 3-D, similar activities have taken place at other ski resorts in the off season. Chris MacDonald, Mountain Manager spoke on behalf of the event. Motion to approve the special event application for Sundown Mountain on September 24, 2022 was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

Sundown Mountain, October 15, 2022, Jeeps on the mountain, this event will be along the side of Heritage Trail not on the trail. Chris MacDonald, Mountain Manager wanted to make the board aware of the event and work with the conservation to keep the area adjacent to the trail groomed and minimal disturbance to the area. MacDonald thanked the board and appreciates the opportunity to work together. Motion to approve the special event application for Sundown Mountain on October 15, 2022 was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HVAC, FILLMORE CLUBHOUSE:

A local vendor looked at the HVAC system at Fillmore. They found parts of the building have no air conditioning, another part of the building has no heat and the pro shop should have a standalone unit. We budgeted \$12,000.00 for FY2022, they unsolicited gave us an estimate of \$24,783.00. The improvements would be able to be done in phases. The first phase would provide cooling to the areas with no air conditioning. Then phase two this fall to add additional duct work where needed. Preston spoke with Stella Runde, Budget Director and options as cost rise and budget estimates being almost two years old. Preston recommended moving forward with phase one and having a short bid time frame and a special meeting to award the bid because of rising prices and availability of units. Motion to solicit bids for phase one HVAC replacement for Fillmore clubhouse was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR UTV:

Budgeted for FY2022 \$17,000.00 for UTV replacement. The specification include a government discount. Kehr asked why diesel instead of electric? Sisler said they have found more power with a diesel versus gas. The electric option could be looked at but price is a concern, horse power and creek crossing may affect the performance. The UTV holds large water tanks that have to climb up hills. Motion to solicit bids for UTV was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR A VEHICLE:

This vehicle is in the FY2023 budget, bids would be opened at the June board meeting and payment not made until after July 1, 2022. Motion to solicit bids for a half ton, 4X4 crew cab pickup was made by Conforti and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

GRILLS, FIRE RINGS AND PICNIC TABLE FRAMES:

Iowa Prison industries is the only place that makes fire rings with a swivel grill around the top of the ring. They had stopped production the last two years due to COVID. Now that they have started producing fire rings again the cost has increased. We need 24 fire rings with swivel grills. We had budgeted \$4,000.00 and will need about \$6,930.00. The Board of Supervisors has been flexible with rolling money over into the next budget year. We have \$24,000.00 left in the trout tank repair. We were able to repair the tank for less than was originally quoted. We would like to use those funds to make up the shortage in other line items. Motion to approve the purchase of 24 fire rings with swivel grill tops was made by Conforti and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

Motion to add picnic table frames to the agenda was made by Kehr and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried. We need 24 picnic table frames. These are galvanized and would be put together by one of our volunteers. We have not ordered any new ones in a couple of years and some of the parks are in dire need. We have \$4,200.00 budgeted with cost increase we need \$5,981.00. Pilot Rock is the only vendor for these picnic table frames. Motion to approve the purchase of 24 picnic table frames was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR AN OUT FRONT MOWER:

Budgeted \$28,000.00 for FY2022, suppliers indicated we would be lucky to have by the summer of 2023. Motion to solicit bids for an out front mower was made by Conforti and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Bowstring project will start June 1st, Swiss Valley is almost complete, Bridge No. 1 on the Heritage Trail will be completed Tuesday, McCarthy shelter belt has been planted, the renter at McCarthy planted soybeans, closed with ITC today, food plots have been planted, Massey dredging is underway, and Rangers completed firearm qualifications. ICAP Insurance Company, Dawn Sherman and Stella Runde visited Swiss Valley, Massey, EB Lyons, Heritage Pond, Proving Grounds, and Miller/McGrath. Army Corps inspection at Massey and Mud Lake has been completed. They will send us a written report. The same black bear has been here for three years. The black bear is afraid of people and not aggressive. We are in the process of building a bear trap. We need to educate people about not feeding the bear. The North Patrol truck replacement was ordered October 2021. The dealer still has no build date for us. The North Patrol truck has a blown engine and we have found a used engine. The law enforcement equipment in the North Patrol truck would cost \$4,000.00 to transfer to another vehicle. We have three estimates for a used motor; Merfeld Brothers \$5,500.00, Sedbrook Auto Repair in East Dubuque \$7,400.00, and Turpin Dodge \$10,000.00. Motion to replace the engine in the North Patrol truck for \$5,500.00 was made by Kehr and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

Would like to raise the wages for the permanent part-time Outreach Coordinator Position from \$15.00 an hour to \$20.00 an hour. Motion to raise the Outreach Coordinator wages by \$5.00 an hour was made by Kehr and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

Kehr would like to have a discussion on job descriptions and wages. Wickham encouraged having Dawn Sherman involved in the discussion as well.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Courtesy dock walk way has been put back in place, no wake buoys has been put in, backfilled trench at Finley's Landing, Heritage Trail has been graded, EB Lyons needs maintenance on the roof, air conditioning and a few other items. The City has asked for a list and will work on making repairs. Center planters at Heritage Pond have been cleaned and replanted with native plants. Gas pumps at Massey have been waiting on pump parts. EB Lyons visitors for April 753 and 1,661 visitor/users for May including school groups.

NATURALIST REPORT: Jason Denlinger gave an update on school events and programs. April; 1,396 and May; 1,590+. These numbers include school outreach, Kindergarten outdoor adventures, and Scout programs. Workshop on water quality and how to test. Habitat restoration, seedling give away, volunteer events and mowing to monarch plants. Upcoming events include Adult gnome hike, garlic mustard pull and pesto and water trails.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed we move Old Business to after staff reports. Will update on future agendas. Preston gave an update on project status. Wickham would like to see us get the Bankston Pond out for bids. Kehr would like the list prioritized, Nature Playscape was in-house, but will be sent out for bids. Davis asked about E-Bikes on the Heritage Trail. State legislature changed the definition of a bike. We are looking into possible speed limits of 25 mph. Trespassing along the Heritage Trail, we will post signs if requested. As of now no blasting will take place at Pohlman Prairie Preserve. Preston is not interested in maintaining DOT structures or culverts along HWY 3 construction needs to be permanent. Anthony Bardgett, County Engineer will help design the parking lot at IPC. Finley's Landing beach has been bring in 200 – 300 people. We have requested additional help from the Sheriff's Departments to show a presence and discourage underage drinking and drugs. Kehr suggested encouraging more friendly family activities to create more of a family atmosphere.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the May 2022 payables was made by Conforti and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:06 P.M.

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER