



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Pat Rea
Jay Wickham
Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr

JUNE 16, 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/81429136547?pwd=Zi8vV1daNWFMVXR5NnhmNEExNGNPZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 2913 6547, Passcode: 442013

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Megan Willenbring and Lisa Schroeder.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the May 19, 2022 meeting minutes as presented was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the June 2, 2022 meeting minutes amended by Kehr to add bid specifications were posted on the Dubuque County website was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Reed Whitaker, 3234 Brook Hollow Dr., Asbury, IA 52002, Star Scout and Senior Patrol Leader in Troop 51. Whitaker would like to build 12 Peterson Style blue birdhouses, 1 barn owl box, 1 Mallard nesting cylinder and 1 duck box for the McCarthy Wildlife area. He would like to complete these by the end of August and would install on the property when ready. Park Ranger, Kurt Kramer assisted with which houses would be needed at the McCarthy Wildlife area. Motion to approve the Eagle Scout project at McCarthy Wildlife area was made by Kehr and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR UTV:

Budgeted for FY2022 \$17,000.00 for UTV replacement. Preston was contacted by Sindt Motor Sales and Scherrman's Implement that due to the shortage in the market they would not be submitting a bid at this time. We received a bid from Dyersville Equipment Company for \$20,869.00 for a John Deere 865M Gator, estimate delivery March of 2023. Motion to award the bid to Dyersville Equipment Company for \$20,869.00 was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR A TRUCK:

Budgeted for FY2023 \$30,000.00, because of the wait on vehicles this was bid out early. Tauke Motors submitted a bid for a 2022 RAM Tradesman, crew cab 4X4, that is in stock but doesn't meet bid specifications for anti-spin differential for \$46,510.00. Finnin Ford submitted a bid for 2022 Ford F150, 4X4 Supercrew, this has more options than needed but the only option under a year wait time for \$56,130.00. Finnin Ford submitted an alternative bid for a used 2021 Ford 4X4 supercab with approximately 12,000 miles for \$43,450.00. Turpin Dodge submitted a bid for a 2022 RAM Bighorn crewcab 4X4, subject to availability no guarantee for \$55,845.00. Kehr asked where the difference between budget and price comes from. Preston said we can go back to the Supervisor's and ask for more money or look at cutting back in other areas of the budget. Vehicles, UTVs, and mowers are all very important to the daily operations. Kehr asked about the used option from Finnin Ford, has this been done before, have we looked at auctions or private sales with individuals? Wickham responded with in the pass we as a government entity collecting tax dollars it's not favorable to compete in the everyday market against a taxpayer. Preston said the government discount on new vehicles is generous. Motion to award the bid to Tauke Motors for \$46,510.00 for a 2022 RAM Tradesman 4X4 crew cab was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR OUT FRONT MOWER:

Budgeted for FY2022 \$28,000.00. We received one bid from Dyersville Equipment Company, for a John Deere 1570 front mower with a 72" deck for \$33,446.00. Availability of a new John Deere 1570 front mower is uncertain at this time. They are only taking orders for 2023 and estimated delivery is June 2023. If John Deere discontinues the 1570 mowers for 2023 this bid is null and void. We will have to wait until October to order. Kehr suggested we wait until September if

we can't order until October. Wickham suggested getting creative and looking at outsourcing. Kehr suggested outsourcing areas that are further out in the county. Preston said a lot of our seasonal help takes care of the mowing. Motion to reject the bid for the out front mower was made by Kehr and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE NO. 1 REPLACEMENT – FINAL ACCEPTANCE AND PAYMENT:

The final project construction cost including change order No. 1 is \$146,217.82. The original contract amount was \$139,673.00, additional rock was required for stabilization totaling \$2,457.43. Motion to approve final acceptance and payment for Heritage Trail Bridge No. 1 replacement was made by Wickham and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

TRAIL COUNTERS:

Budgeted for FY2023 \$14,500.00. The current ones are broke and out of date. TRAFx was recommend by other recreational entities. They provide more accurate data and last longer. The real time data will be helpful in applying for grants and management of our areas. Motion to approve the purchase of TRAFx trail counters for \$15,842.00 was made by Kehr and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

MILLER CABIN ELECTRICITY:

Preston requested approval to put underground electric service to the Miller Cabin and additional RV site with 50 AMP electricity. Estimate for underground service thru Maquoketa Valley Electric cooperative would be \$6,340.50. Kehr asked if we felt electric was needed to be able to rent the cabin. Preston felt the added RV site with 50 AMP would be desirable. The electricity would allow us to add a small refrigerator and counter top microwave as amenities. Rea pointed out that per the quote \$3,877.50 is refundable over a monthly time period. Kehr requested we prioritize the RV hook if we add electricity. Motion to approve electricity to the Miller Cabin was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Heidi Sutter, 2225 Joann Dr., Asbury IA 52001 and Olivia Dietzel, 266 St. Ann Ave., Dickeyville, WI 53808 addressed the board on behalf of the Dubuque Area Triathlon Club. They are looking for an open body of water in the county to practice swimming. Open water swimming is very different than swimming in a pool. They are a paid membership club and have insurance. Preston said that he called ICAP our insurance provider to see what requirements they would have. Sutter and Dietzel explained that any swimmer would be required to have a spotter. They would practice weekly thru the summer months. Sutter and Dietzel requested to be on the July board meeting agenda and would look at working thru insurance requirement before the meeting. Agendas going forward will have a public comment session at the beginning of the meeting and at the end.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Massey dredging is expected to continue for a few more weeks. Swiss Valley Nature Center had a bad water test, they found ants in the well. When the conduit was replaced last fall it was never resealed. We had a minor traffic accident with the mower trailer and it has been turned into insurance. Golf play at Fillmore is strong and we should reach budget numbers by the end of June. Action Trackchair out of MN brought down a few models and gave a presentation. We are looking at a DRA grant to purchase two. These would be beneficial for school groups with kids who have mobility issues and others in the public. The ranges reported 46 traffic stops, 31 citations, 20 service calls and 4 warnings. The part time park attendant at New Wine has asked for a raise. He is the only part time employee that receives health care benefits and lives at the park.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Mowing to Monarch plants planted, stumps cleaned up at Finley's and Mud Lake, seeded Swiss Valley Park, food plots planted, Whitewater Canyon and Miller McGrath areas mowed.

NATURALIST REPORT: Megan Willenbring gave an update on school events and programs. May; 2,906 and June; 1,280+. The numbers for May include Outdoor Adventures. Summer camps are being held at Swiss Valley and EB Lyons. The three full time Naturalists attended a kayak training. Partnering with Jackson County on a Mississippi River Voyageur camp and Yellow River State Forest Backpacking trip.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kehr recommended adding signage about the new prairie plantings to update and educate the public. Preston said the water trail steering committees would be meeting in July and hopefully some approval by December. Review of job descriptions before the budget. Prioritizing the order of the FY2023 projects. Dubuque County Conservation is hosting the annual fall conference for Iowa County Conservation Systems, September 13th thru September 15th.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the June 2022 payables was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

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

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER