



**DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**  
13606 Swiss Valley Road  
Peosta, IA 52068  
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Brian Preston, Director  
**Board Members:**  
Pat Rea  
Jay Wickham  
Stacy Conforti  
George Davis  
Jackie Kehr

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## **SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL:** Meeting was called to order by Pat Rea at 4:01 P.M.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461157390?pwd=cTZldklQazVCM21kM3hvZ1U0Ync5UT09>

Meeting ID: 844 6115 7390 Passcode: 945959

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

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

### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the August 18, 2022 meeting minutes as presented was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

### **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

Miles Gacioch, 2325 Whitetail Dr., Asbury, IA 52002, Troop 11. Fix-it stations at the Proving Grounds.

Gacioch has already been to a TMBR meeting and they were in support of these fix-it stations at the Proving Grounds and they donated \$700.00. The Friends of the Dubuque County Conservation Board are also in favor of these fix-it stations and will be donating funds from their Chili Feed. Gacioch would like to put in two fix-it stations, one located at the bottom of the hill and one located at the top of the hill. Davis asked what the life expectancy was for a fix-it station. Preston said 10 years and then the O-rings will need to be replaced.

Motion to approve Miles Gacioch, Eagle Scout project for two fix-it stations at the Proving Grounds was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

### **SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION:**

Browns Hometown Victory Foundation, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 5K haunted trail run to benefit the foundation's youth programs. This event would take place along the Heritage Trail between mile markers 25 and 23. Preston said this event has been held annually for the past 9 years and he would recommend approval. Motion to approve the special event permit for Browns Hometown Victory Foundation on the Heritage Trail was made by Davis and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

### **SHERRILL WEST SIDE THIRD ADDITION PLAT:**

Dave Schneider, Schneider Land Surveying, 906 1<sup>st</sup> St NW, Farley, IA 52046 and Melvin Christensen 11003 JFK Rd, Dubuque, IA 52001 representing the Sherrill United Methodist Church and Cemetery. The land is

zoned C1, the Conservation Board serves as an advisory board for Zoning. Schneider said that 8 small parcels exist and looking at reconfiguring them into three lots. Christensen said one main reason for this process is to maintain better parking and access to the cemetery. Lot 1 would be the cemetery, Lot 2 the church and Lot 3 extra land, if needed for cemetery space or sold for funds to maintain the cemetery.

Schneider said they were looking for permission to adjust the lot lines within the property that is currently owned. The City of Sherrill has refused to annex this property. Kehr asked to have some additional information as to the history of why this property is zoned the way that it is. Preston said no one has been able to find paper work or anything in writing as to why this was zoned a certain way back in the early 1970s. Davis

confirmed that the Conservation Board was only agreeing to plat lines being changed within the current property. Motion to recommend that the zoning board allow Sherrill West Side Third Addition Plat be approved was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

**AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BANK STABILIZATION AND FENCE REMOVAL WEST OF PERU RD:**

We received five bids. Midwest Concrete for \$30,200.00, Mainline Excavating Co., Inc. for \$22,200.00, Tschiggfrie Excavating for \$27,194.00, Connolly Construction Inc. for \$38,040.00 and Gansen Excavating Inc. for \$22,600.00. Motion to award the bid for Heritage Trail bank stabilization and fence removal West of Peru Road to Mainline Excavating Co. Inc. for \$22,200.00 was made by Wickham and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

**AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL LIMESTONE RESURFACING:**

We received two bids. Gansen Excavating Inc. for \$13,050.00 and River City Stone for \$22,425.00. Motion to award the bid for Heritage Trail limestone resurfacing to Gansen Excavating Inc. for \$13,050.00 was made by Conforti and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR SWISS VALLEY PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2:**

RDg scope of services not to exceed \$19,000.00. Preparation of construction documents, bid services and construction period services. Streambank stabilization from the bend in the stream to Whitetop Rd. Preston has started the permit process. Motion to approve professional service agreement for Swiss Valley Park site improvements phase 2 with RDg was made by Wickham and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

**INTERSTATE POWER COMPANY FOREST PRESERVE TRAILHEAD PLAN LAYOUT REVIEW:**

WHKS & Co. prepared a preliminary site layout plan and possible future lot expansion for Interstate Power Forest Preserve. The county engineer would not approve two entrances to the parking lot. Might be room to put a little gravel at the end for an extra turnaround area. Preston plans to reach out to the neighbors to see if they have any concerns. Kehr wants to make sure the handicap stall is ADA compliant and has a sufficient loading zone. Asphalt paving for the parking lot will be more budget friendly than concrete. Motion to approve the preliminary site layout for Interstate Power Forest Preserve Trailhead with asphalt paving was made by Kehr and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

**OUT FRONT MOWER:**

Preston said we may solicit bids for an out front mower or go with a state bid. State bids have been around \$32,000.00. We have \$28,000.00 budgeted for FY 2022. If we solicit for bids we may not receive an out front mower until 2024. The board agreed we have not been getting many bids due to the unknown availability of equipment. Preston said to cover the difference in cost we may need to hold off replacing a trailer until the following year. The out front mower is a much greater need. Motion to approve going with a state bid for the out front mower was made by Conforti and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

**HERITAGE TRAIL 2023 USER FEES:**

Trail passes for 2023 go on sale November 1<sup>st</sup>. Preston recommend holding the fees the same as last year. Individual \$10.00, Senior, age 65 or older \$5.00 and Family \$25.00. Other fees will be set at the November meeting. Motion to approve keeping Heritage Trail fees the same for 2023 was made by Kehr and seconded by Wickham. Motion carried.

**DESTINATION IOWA GRANT FOR HERITAGE TRAIL:**

Preston would like to apply for this grant, but the deadline is too soon, table for next year. Motion to table applying for Destination Iowa Grant for the Heritage Trail until next year was made by Wickham and seconded by Rea. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

None

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** Thanked the board and staff on an epic ICCS Fall Conference. Great feedback and a lot of positive comments. Balltown overlook railing was damaged in a vehicle accident. Working with insurance to have repaired right away. Bowstring parking lot was completed. In the process an abandoned well was found. The well was very shallow so it was filled in. Applied to the Health Department for a grant on reimbursement for part of the cost. Thoughts were to have the NRCS design the wetland on the McCarthy property, but they are not sure when they would be able to do the design. Wickham suggested using someone local and supported getting this back to its natural state. Next few weeks starting the parking lot at McCarthy. Massey had a water leak under the road. Sisler was unable to make the meeting due to taking care of the water leak. Finley's shower house roof is being replaced. Collecting acorns for a direct seed. Golf play is going well, best year so far.

**NATURALIST REPORT:** Megan Willenbring gave an update on summer camps and programs. August; 384 participants, summer and day camps wrapping up and transitioning into school groups. September estimate 827 participants. 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Dubuque Community schools will be joining us for Outdoor Adventures. Past events; Yoga and Wine at Whitewater Canyon, Sunset Paddle, Monarch Tagging, and Heritage Classic Days. Upcoming events; Becoming an Outdoor Women, cub scout and boy scout programs, 8<sup>th</sup> grade career day and partnering with Jones county for OWLS. October will be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for Outdoor Adventures. GIA members start next week.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Rea on behalf of the board congratulated Preston and staff on one of the best ICCS Fall Conferences. Kehr would like find better ways to let the public know what we're doing, possibly thru social media. Market interesting facts like the Rusty Patch Bubble Bee and how were making a difference.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

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

**NEXT MEETING:**

Preston asked the board if they would be interested in an area tour. Tours were done annually in the past. Thursday, October 20, 2022, meet at Swiss Valley Nature Center at 8:00 AM and tour until 3:30 PM. Then regular board meeting at 4:00 PM.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Wickham seconded by Conforti. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:32 P.M.

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**DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER**