



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

FEBRUARY 23, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation regular monthly meeting was called to order by Stacy Conforti at 4:04 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86446624739?pwd=aTRDSXZmUVF4SDBZbjlaQzBKKeC90dz09>
Meeting ID: 864 4662 4739 Passcode: 947508

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Stacy Conforti, Jackie Kehr and Jim Pfeiler, Zoom: Mark Wagner.

Absent: George Davis

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION:

MVRA fun run 5K/10K, May 13, 2023, Durango Depot starting location. Preston said this will be there 30th annual run and everything has always gone well. Motion to approve the special event application for MVRA was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

St. Vincent DePaul run, walk, bike on September 30, 2023, Heritage Pond starting location. Jim Roling, 1160 Mt. Loretta Ave., Dubuque, IA 52003, said this is St. Vincent DePaul's annual appeal. The event went well last year and they want to continue to grow this event and make it an annual event. Motion to approve the special event application for St. Vincent DePaul was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR HEAVY DUTY PULL TYPE FLATBED TRAILER:

Preston opened three bids as follows; Avalon Service Center, 2023 Behnke Trailer \$17,135.00, no trade value due to the trade having holes in the frame that would make unit non-compliant with DOT regulations. Roeder Brothers Inc., was unable to bid due to not being able to meet specifications for powder coated. Holden Industries Inc., 2023 TDO20-Holden Trailer \$21,020.00, no trade value. Trailer replacement budgeted for FY 2023 for \$15,000.00. Motion to award the bid to Avalon Service Center for a 2023 Behnke Trailer for \$17,135.00 with no trade was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT:

This is a partnership with approximately 35 other conservation organizations. Through this partnership we are able to combine our resources for the greater good and use these resources to leverage additional Federal conservation grant dollars through the NAWCA program. McCarthy Wildlife area is 100 acre property. The grant dollars would be used to restore important wildlife habitats in this part of Iowa. This letter is not binding it to show support and willingness to receive money so help construct the wetland area at McCarthy and possible add notice of grant agreement to the property as a recordable document. Motion to sign the letter of support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Proposal partner contribution statement for Cedar-Wapsi Valley Wetlands was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

TRAINING REQUEST FOR STAFF:

Preston asked approval for Kaytlan Moeller to attend the North American Prairie Conference in Altoona, IA. Moeller will be doing a poster presentation at the event for Mowing to Monarchs. Motion to approve Moeller to attend the North American Prairie Conference was made by Wagner and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Working on an extensive land report that will be due by the end of April. The report is historical back to 1957 involving individual parcels and landowners. Will present the Army Corp report at next month's meeting. The water test at the Swiss Valley Nature Center will be monthly and after 12 months of clear test we will be able to request quarterly testing. Forest reserve inspections next week. Energy audit at Fillmore for possibly adding solar panels to the roof of the clubhouse. Would like to add more solar panels in other areas with federal funding for installation. Working to set up a public meeting for the Bankston Pond in April. We will have a Heritage Trail and Resource Technician report in March.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Plowing roads and parking lots in our areas. Nine new covered boat slips finished at Massey. Trails are very icy, hiking is not recommended at this time. Short staff at the present time due to training and sick.

NATURALIST REPORT: Addy Schober introduced herself to the board. Schaefer gave an overview of the Winterfest Conference that was attend by staff in January. Schober presented the Naturalist report - 1st grade Outdoor Adventures. Upcoming programs include the planetarium, landowner's workshop, becoming an outdoor women, sustainable living practices and summer camps are almost full.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public hunting – connecting landowners and hunters, some of these ideas and questions will be addressed in the upcoming landowner's workshop. Education is key to facilitating these connections. Special event applications and policies are being looked at and will be reviewed in March. Working this year to create a 3-5 year budget and starting the budget planning earlier than December. Wage increases were a closed work session with the Supervisors and we may not know anything until the end of April. Meeting the publics needs with summer camps and programs, reaching a broader area. Look at how we are reaching the public. Taking to time to schedule a work session for the Conservation Board to look at goals and planning.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the February 2023 payables was made by Kehr and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:18 P.M.

Mark D. Wagner

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER

Stacy Conforti

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