



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

MARCH 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation regular monthly meeting was called to order by Stacy Conforti at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88697609255?pwd=ZTFvSTBTZHJhMIJBN2JDV283aUFjZz09>
Meeting ID: 886 9760 9255, Passcode: 113827

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Stacy Conforti, Mark Wagner, Jim Pfeiler and George Davis (4:03 P.M.). Zoom: Jackie Kehr.

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Addy Schober, Nick Banwarth and Lisa Schroeder.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the February 23, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION:

HDSA fun walk, May 6, 2023, Heritage Pond starting location. This is the first year for this event to raise money for Huntington's Disease Society of American. Amanda Laufenberg, 16292 Herod Ln., Dubuque, IA 52002 attend on zoom for any questions about the event. Laufenberg said most of the fund-raising would be done prior to the event. Motion to approve the special event application for HDSA fun walk was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR MASSEY MARINA OUTDOOR PATIO SEATING:

Preston presented a map and pictures of the current outdoor seating at Massey Marina. This project was budgeted in FY2023 for \$30,000.00. Time frame on completion will depend on if there is flooding at Massey Marina. Hopefully completion will be early June. Motion to approve soliciting bids for Massey Marina outdoor patio seating area was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

TRAINING REQUEST FOR STAFF:

Shaefers and Schroeder would like to attend a Hunter Education Instructor Workshop in Shueyville, IA. This workshop is pursuant to certification requirement in Iowa. Motion to approve training request for Shaefers and Schroeder to attend Hunter Education Instructor Workshop was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

ARMY CORPS REPORT:

Preston presented the 2022 Annual Army Corps Report. The report highlights updates to Massey Marina, Mud Lake Park and Little Maquoketa River Delta (John Deere Marsh). Motion to approve submitting the 2022 Annual Report to Army Corps was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT POLICY:

Amendments were made to the Special Event Policy and Application. The biggest changes were lowering the attendance from 200 to 150, cleaning up the definitions and making them consistence throughout the

policy and application, and taking weddings from its own section to be included in the definition of a special event. Fee assessments were raised on the application. Preston will confirm with the County Insurance provider that the stated \$1,000,000 is enough coverage. Motion to approve the amendments to the Special Event Policy and Application subject to changing insurance requirements if necessary was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Still working on an extensive public land report that will be due by the end of April. Finished forest reserve inspections. Supervisors meeting on Monday to review all capital projects and possible cut additional projects. Due to impending flooding we have turned camping reservations off at Finley's Landing, Massey Marina and Mud Lake. Bridge 6 on the Heritage Trail has a lot of debris that needs to be cleaned up. With the soft muddy conditions we will continue to watch until conditions improve. Iowa DOT HWY 3, is still looking at alternative routes for detouring the Heritage Trail, this project is now estimated to start possible in 2025. EB Lyons public water supply will have the chlorinator removed, which will eliminate daily water testing. ISAC sessions were very good, they emphasized using Instagram and YouTube to attract new employees. Tourism is also another economic impact on attracting younger workforce.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Completed hardware on the new boat slips at Massey. Cleared trees, cut firewood, finished Purple Martin House, removed snow fence at Ringneck Ridge, tapped trees, staff CWD training, plowed snow. Short staff at the present time due to training and illness.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schober reported; 22 programs, 1,024 participants for March, March of 2022 we had 1,059 participants, programs included the planetarium, blue bird workshop, bird banding, Landowner's Workshop, becoming an outdoor women (BOW), and Driftless series. Outdoor Adventures this month is 4th graders learning about geology and all schools were included this year. Last year only two schools participated. Upcoming events; Easter egg hunt on the Heritage Trail, party for the planet, bird banding, and summer outreach programs.

NATURAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN REPORT: Nick Banwarth reported on Pohlman Prairie Preserve burn, Finley's Landing ruffed grouse project, cleaned Kestrel and Wood Duck boxes, removal of invasive species at Sunnycrest Manor on their goat prairie, helped with the Landowner Workshop, collected over 400 gallons of sap with staff and volunteers, spring time will be very busy planting trees at Ringneck Ridge, Whitewater Canyons, Bowstring Wildlife Area and McCarthy.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the March 2023 payables was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wagner and seconded by Davis. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:58 P.M.

 4/20/23
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