



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
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Brian Preston, Director
Board Members:
Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

APRIL 20, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation regular monthly meeting was called to order by George Davis at 4:01 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84258408253?pwd=R0RzbnlheHNwQ1c1dmhwWHgzQVpaQT09>
Meeting ID: 842 5840 8253 Passcode: 243423

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: George Davis, Jackie Kehr, Mark Wagner, Jim Pfeiler and Stacy Conforti (4:04 P.M.). Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Jason Denlinger, Kurt Kramer, Mike White, Del Bischoff and Lisa Schroeder.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Park Ranger, Kurt Kramer addressed the board about his upcoming retirement on, May 15, 2023 and thanked the board and their predecessors for 33 years of employment opportunity.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the March 16, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

DUBUQUE AREA TRIATHLON CLUB SPECIAL USE REQUEST:

The Dubuque Area Triathlon Club would again like to use Heritage Pond for open water swim practice. Preston said they have already provided liability insurance and would follow the same times and precautions as last year. We had no, complaints or issues last year. Motion to approve the Dubuque Area Triathlon Club to use Heritage Pond for open water swim practice was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR MASSEY MARINA OUTDOOR PATIO SEATING:

Preston opened six bids for the Massey Marina outdoor patio seating. Valentine Construction for \$13,800.00, Demmer Dirt Company for \$12,749.00, Kinsella Concrete Construction \$11,900.00, Midwest Concrete Inc. for \$19,768.00, Chris Davis for \$16,050.00 and Kane Brothers Concrete LLC for \$10,461.00. This project was budgeted in FY2023 for \$30,000.00. Thickness 6" base and 4" cement. Motion to approve awarding the bid for Massey Marina outdoor patio seating to Kane Brothers Concrete LLC for \$10,461.00 was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROPOSAL FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE 11 RAILING AND DECK REPLACEMENT:

Origin Design proposal for professional services for Heritage Trail bridge 11 railing and deck replacement. The repairs are intended to extend the serviceable longevity for the structure. The design of the railing will be similar to Bridge 13. Motion to approve professional service agreement with Origin Design for Heritage Trail Bridge 11 railing and deck replacement was made by Kehr and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstain due to a relation with a signor on the Origin Design team.

AMENDMENT TO DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR WHITEWATER CANYON WILDLIFE AREA:

The Amendment to Deed of Conservation Easement for Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area Forest Legacy Program of the USDA Forest Service was discussed. The Amendment to the Conservation Easement establishes a Designated Improvement Area as detailed in Exhibit C. Motion to approve Executive Director, Brian Preston to sign on behalf of the Dubuque County Conservation Board, Amendment to Deed of Conservation Easement for Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area was made by Kehr and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR TRAIL CREW:

Trail leader and four crew members, usually start 2nd or 3rd week of June. We have asked for wage increases but there still has been no confirmation if that will happen. Motion to approve advertising for trail crew was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

WATER TRAIL PLANNING RESULTS:

Mimi Wagner with Stantec, Final Planning meeting for Dubuque County Water Trails. Went over known concerns, action planning, skill level ratings, experience classifications, and public survey guidance. DNR will provide sign's and formal designation for Little Maquoketa, Lytle Creek and North Fork Maquoketa. These water trails will be added to an interactive map with information about each access point. The board was in support of moving forward with the water trail plan. Davis encouraged keeping Cascade and Dyersville informed as we continue to move forward.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: We have three estimates to clean the debris at bridge 3 and 6. Gansen Excavating will be moving forward with debris removal. Carsen Bellis will graduate from the academy tomorrow. Alex Scott is the new ranger at Mud Lake. He will be at the May meeting for introductions. Railroad clean up at Finley's Landing and Mud Lake, train derailed causing a spark and set a few railroad ties on fire. Lahey Excavating made an area to catch the runoff from going into the river. Swiss Valley phase 2 has run into some elevation issues between Gansen and the engineer. Those will be worked out but will put the project behind. Would like to work on YouTube videos to recruit summer help in the future. ISAC sessions emphasized this to attract new employees. Still waiting to hear from the Board of Supervisors on approval of wage increases. We may lose people if there is no wage increase. Taylor and Schroeder will be attending Hunter Education Instructor class on Saturday. WHKS is preparing large boards to display Bankston Pond plans for a public meeting in May. We would like to relocate some on the new prairie that was planted at Bankston last year. A few campers would like to see the campsites added back. Due to impending flooding we have turned camping reservations off at Finley's Landing, Massey Marina and Mud Lake. Budget is getting pretty tight, we will hold off starting seasonal help until the water starts to recede. Will need to look at a budget amendment. FEMA has started meeting for the first time in history before the flood has happened.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Preparing for the flood, electricity is pulled in all three river campgrounds, cleared trees, cut firewood, staff completed CWD training, TSI work at Finley's Landing, repaired and checked fencing at Swiss Valley and Miller McGrath and burning.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Removed dead Ash trees, preparing greens, new irrigation controls, small pavilion roof still needs repair, well shocked and water on, high school kids helped clean up the greens for a service day, IT installing a hot spot to run the new irrigation controls, looking forward at possible retirement and Ray Martin a seasonal is going to school for greens maintenance and knows the irrigation system and a lot of the daily operations.

NATURALIST REPORT: Denlinger reported; 28 programs and 1,003 participants so far in April, Outdoor Adventures this month is 4th graders learning about geology and all schools were included this year. Last year only two schools participated. Programs including; public libraries – reading a story about an animal and getting to see and touch the animal, career fair at Hempstead High School, and Woodcock watch. Upcoming events; Kindergarten Outdoor Adventures will take place at or by their schools, STEMfest, Kids at Work, volunteer service days and spring field trips.

HERITAGE TRAIL REPORT: Del Bischoff reported an overall review of fencing, resurfacing projects, tree work and Kidder Prairie. There will be a volunteer group next week in the Twin Springs area. Making maple syrup in the winter months.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the April 2023 payables was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

 5/18/23
DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER


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