



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

MAY 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation regular monthly meeting was called to order by George Davis at 4:06 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83485942973?pwd=cFNLRGlvNTlVRzV3cEIJaTlqRGhodz09>
Meeting ID: 834 8594 2973 Passcode: 452274

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: George Davis, Jackie Kehr, Mark Wagner, and Jim Pfeiler. Absent: Stacy Conforti

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FOR PROVING GROUNDS:

Iowa Scholastic MTB league, June 24, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Proving Grounds, this is the 2nd year. Preston recommended approval for this event. Motion to approve the special event application for Iowa Scholastic MTB league on June 24th at Proving Grounds was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS HERITAGE TRAIL:

Alzheimer's 5K and half marathon, August 19, 2023 from 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Heritage Pond, benefit for Alzheimer's Association. Preston recommended approval for this event. Motion to approve the special event application for Alzheimer's 5K and half marathon on August 19th at Heritage Pond was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

Sundown Mountain, 3D Archery Tournament, August 18th thru August 20th, 2023, camping along the Heritage Trail adjacent to Sundown. Mark Gordon, General Manager for Sundown spoke about the 3D Archery and the only activity on the Conservation portion along Heritage Trail would be camping. Motion to approve the special event application for Sundown Mountain, August 18th thru August 20th was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

Sundown Mountain, Jeeps on the Mountain, October 13th thru October 15th, 2023, camping along the Heritage Trail adjacent to Sundown. Preston recommended Mark Gordon contact the DNR about the creek crossing prior to the event. Kehr requested insurance needs to match the date of the event and one Dubuque County Conservation staff present at the event. Mark Gordon, General Manager and Chris MacDonald, Mountain Manager would be happy to extend an invite to all staff to join the event. Motion to approve the special event application for Sundown Mountain, October 13th thru October 15th was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried with 3 votes in favor and Davis abstaining.

SWISS VALLEY PARK, CATFISH CREEK IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE 2, PAYMENT NO. 1:

Project is complete and the walk thru is scheduled for next week. Gansen Excavating, contractor's payment form, contract payment no. 1 for \$137,238.90. Motion to approve payment No. 1 for \$137,238.90 to Gansen Excavating for Swiss Valley Park, Catfish Creek Improvements – Phase 2 was made by Kehr and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR HERITAGE TRAIL PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS PCC SIDEWALK REPAIRS:

Endeavor Civil Engineering is estimating the expenses to be over \$100,000.00. Due to the possible cost of the project a public hearing is required. Preston suggested to hold the public hearing at 4:00 PM, June 15th at the Conservation Board Meeting. Plans would be displayed at the Swiss Valley Nature Center and the meeting location and time would be posted in the newspaper. Motion to set a public hearing for June 15th at 4:00 PM on plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Heritage Trail Pedestrian Overpass PCC Sidewalk/Trail repairs was made by Kehr and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Finley Landing is opened and reservations have been turned back on. Mud Lake cleanup is in process. Sill very wet, hoping to have some limited camping at Mud Lake for Memorial Day Weekend. Boat ramp is opened. Water tested at Mud Lake and Finley's. Massey will be longer, well company replace items at Massey, boat slips in good shape, and some log jams to clean. River is going down steadily. John Deere marsh has a lot of debris on trails. IPC parking lot under construction, saturated clay, re-compacted clay, digging another 6 inches, by end of week hopefully a gravel parking lot. Kurt Kramer retired on Monday and we are in the processing of filling that position, seasonals started this week. Mowing to Monarch plant pick up yesterday. Very busy.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: almost all prairies burned, flood prep and clean up. Massey has a long way to go, concessionaire would like to get up and running. Transformer was pulled at Massey, well company coming tomorrow. Roads need to be dry to avoid large vehicles tearing up the roads. Tree planting, food plots finishing up. Trees down on trails, mowing, patrolling, reattached courteous dock at Mud Lake. Ranger's re-certification, Carsen graduated, replaced electric fence on Heritage Trail, Heritage Trail graded, Heritage Pond replaced parking stops, train derailment at Finley's.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schober - 28 programs, 1407 participants, Kindergarten Outdoor adventures were on Habitats, School field trips, Forest School, Wildflower hike and a presentation by Kevin Koch. Upcoming events; mushroom & forage hike, Sunnycrest clean up, Four Mounds furs and skulls, Dyersville Library animal program, Leisure Services Programs and adult voyager trip.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kehr - Mowing to Monarch meeting, planning there layout and pick up of plants. Big piece was help from volunteers and master-gardeners. Doug Cheever creating plans, plant list and information. Iowa State Master Gardener's will be presenting the Dubuque County Master Gardner's with a statewide award recognizing the success of their involvement in the Mowing to Monarchs Program. Preston said the New Human Resources Director is working on a new handbook for county employees, probation period reduced, bereavement time same throughout the county. We are currently \$42,000.00 ahead on revenue for FY2023. Really tight on budget expenses. Caution to wait until after July. FEMA we are preparing to be ready. Kehr asked if a public hearing was set for Bankston Pond? Preston said with Memorial Day approaching it would be a great time to talk with campers at Bankston.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the May 2023 payables was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.


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