



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

JUNE 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation regular monthly meeting was called to order by Jackie Kehr at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link,
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85302431644?pwd=bUZBSkxhZWJkFqFBRUIV6YUVHZz09>
Meeting ID: 853 0243 1644 Passcode: 488287

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Jackie Kehr, Mark Wagner, and Jim Pfeiler. Zoom: Stacy Conforti and George Davis (left at 5:00P.M.)

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Alex Scott, Taylor Schaefer and Lisa Schroeder.

PUBLIC INPUT:

In Person:

Art Roche 5451 Meadow Ct., Asbury, IA 52002 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's or any other motorized vehicle on the Heritage Trail. Concerned about damage to the trail, safety and preserving the trail. Even a pilot program would be like opening Pandora's box.

Matt Phelps 1197 Cleveland Ave., Dubuque, IA 52003 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Personally uses the trail for improving health, serenity and enjoying wildlife. Concerned about safety, noise and disturbance of wildlife.

Pat Rea 4528 Rea Rd., Bernard, IA 52032 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Believes it would increase accidents, dust, noise and discourage walkers and family use.

Ron Bensink 5415 Sun Valley Dr., Asbury, IA 52002 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Concerned about safety, avid bike rider and there are not a lot of trails for bike riders.

Shawn Schaefer 11735 King Arthur Ct., Dubuque, IA 52001 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. His family spends a lot of time on the trail and they enjoy bringing the family dog. The noise alone would scared there young children and dog. Sunday afternoons are family time spent together.

Brett Errthum 2424 Winterwood Dr., Asbury, IA 52002 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Is not a fan of e-bikes on the trail. What is the pass fail criteria? Needs to be transparent.

Sharon Schlueter 9758 Shawondasee Dr., Dubuque, IA 52003 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Owns a UTV and still thinks it's a bad idea. The environmental impact would not be good.

Ann McDonough 2469 Whitetail, Asbury, IA 52002 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Stated this is not an idea brought by the Dubuque County Supervisors. Wayne Kenniker proposed the use of ATV's/UTV's on his personal social media for comment.

Charlotte Tracy 2414 Spruce Wood Dr., Asbury, IA 52002 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Submitted signatures of 150 people opposed to the use of ATV's/UTV's on the trail. She personally knows families from WI that use the Heritage Trail to bike and walk because of the use of ATV's/UTV's on the trails where they live. She also walks the trail for health reasons and clear mind.

Darren Nauman 18496 Five Points Rd., Durango, IA 52039 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Uses the trail 4-5 times a week. Has friends that use the trail as a way to get to work.

Zoom:

Gail Weitz 1630 Lori Ct., Dubuque, IA 52001 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Retired nurse and seen firsthand what drinking and operating a motorized vehicle can do.

Dianne Koch and Kevin Koch 285 S Grandview Ave, Dubuque, IA 52003 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. They believe this use would violate grant money that was used for the trail. Safety of walkers and bikers with flying gravel.

Jayne Ironside 2282 Palmer DR., Asbury, IA 52002 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Concerned for safety, the availability to enjoy with friends, walking with their dog, the extra damage and repairs that will be needed.

Carrie Schmitt 18751 Five Points Rd., Durango, IA 52039 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Very disturbed at the idea of take a safe place for walkers and bike riders away. Noise, dust, speed would all ruin the trail.

Rob Williams 2221 Apsen Dr., Dubuque, IA 52001 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Motorized vehicles have no business on the trail.

Carlene Smith 11735 King Arthur Ct., Dubuque, IA 52001 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Can't imagine walking with her 6 month old in a stroller as an ATV/UTV would go driving by. This would ruin the trail and she would not use the trail for safety reasons.

Bill Stoffel 2905 Fox Hollow Dr., Dubuque, IA 52001 spoke against the use of ATV's/UTV's on the Heritage Trail. Has used the trail since it first started. This would just be a matter of time before an accident. Allowing motorized vehicles would be a travesty.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED COST FOR THE DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, HERITAGE TRAIL PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS P.C.C. SIDEWALK/TRAIL REPAIR:

Motion to open the public hearing for the Heritage Trail Pedestrian Overpass was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried and the public hearing was opened at 4:43 P.M.

No public comment was made.

Motion to close the public hearing for the Heritage Trail Pedestrian Overpass was made by Davis and seconded Conforti. Motion carried and the public hearing closed at 4:45 P.M.

IPC TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT, CONSTRUCTOR PAYMENT NO. 1:

IPC parking lot is almost complete. Payment to Gansen Excavating for \$98,866.64 is a partial payment. There was an overrun on topsoil, it was very soft and we need about 3 extra loads. Lines for the parking lot will be completed today. Motion to approve payment No. 1 for \$98,866.64 to Gansen Excavating for IPC Trailhead Parking Lot was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

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

Final walk thru complete, no items for the contractor to complete. The project was seeded with a Leopold mix. Payment No. 2 to Gansen Excavating for \$104,262.69. Motion to approve payment No. 2 for \$104,262.69 to Gansen Excavating for Swiss Valley Park, Catfish Creek Improvements – Phase 2 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF VAULT LATRINE QUOTES:

Interstate Power Co. Forest Preserve quote Goldeneye vault toilet \$25,625.00, delivery \$2,500.00 and crane \$5,000.00. Whitewater Canyon quote Goldeneye vault toilet same as Interstate Power Co. Forest Preserve or Teal vault toilet \$16,050.00 delivery and crane cost the same as a Goldeneye. Goldeneye is a two stall verses a Teal which is a one stall vault toilet. Both styles are ADA accessible. Budget is \$40,000.00 for a vault latrine for Whitewater Canyon and Heritage Trail near Budd Rd. Preston recommend a Teal vault toilet for Whitewater Canyon and a Goldeneye vault toilet for Interstate Power Co. Forest Preserve. The current vault toilet on Heritage Trail by Budd Rd. is leaking but the roof could be fixed. Without a restroom at Whitewater Canyon we are limited on programming at that location. Preston said there were other projects that would not happen for FY2023 and the overrun would be pulled from those projects. Motion to install a Goldeneye vault toilet at Interstate Power Co. Forest Preserve and a Teal vault toilet at Whitewater Canyon was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

TRAINING REQUEST FOR PRESTON TO ATTEND ISAC:

Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) annual conference August 22-25, 2023. County Conservation Director's Agenda has CDL changes, CCDA business meeting and new Iowa prescribed fire program that would be just some of the beneficial information. Motion to approve Preston to attend ISAC annual conference was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Wagner complimented the Finley's Landing campground and access from the Mississippi River by canoe. Kehr stayed at the Miller Cabin and said it was the best place to enjoy a summer evening, absolutely stunning. Pat Rea 4528 Rea Rd., Bernard, IA 52032, said thank you for approving a restroom at Whitewater Canyon.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston introduced Alex Scott, the new Park Ranger at Mud Lake. McCarthy was seeded last fall and mowed for the first time this week. It's extremely dry in all areas. Patio at Massey is being poured today. IPC seeding complete. Starting flood clean up at John Deere Marsh. Gansen removed large flood debris by the boat ramp at Massey. We are waiting to see if the State of Iowa meets the FEMA regulations. Currently we are keeping records of flood expenses and damage. Friends Group is sponsoring the Bluegrass Sunday's at Mud Lake starting in July. KCRG, Scott Saville rode with John Campbell and Mike Heath on the Heritage Trail and featured the Heritage Trail on their Trail Series leading up to Ragbrai. Best hidden gem in Iowa!

NATURALIST REPORT: Schaefer – 24 programs, finished school field trips, starting summer camps, and providing environmental education for other camps. Upcoming events; Family Fridays, pop up programs and summer camps. Blue crew starting next week. Finished up Bee Camp for 8-12 year olds. Heritage Trail overnight bike camp in progress.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kehr – Would like to set a date for a work session for the FY2025 budget, strategic planning and goals for next year. Work session before the regular month meeting starting at 2:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

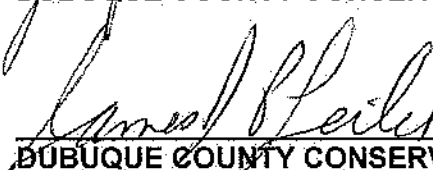
NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 4:00 P.M., Work session will start at 2:00 P.M. with regular board meeting starting 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 5:25 P.M.

 7/27/23
DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER

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