



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board 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/84485033024?pwd=MmxHZnUyZ3ZVOVJPUUt3UVRqMC9Gdz09>
Meeting ID: 844 8503 3024 Passcode: 888089

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Stacy Conforti, George Davis, Jackie Kehr, Mark Wagner, and Jim Pfeiler.
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler and Taylor Schaefer.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

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

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS FOR SWISS VALLEY PARK:

Northeast Iowa Council BSA, Fall Dubuque District Camporee, October 6-8, 2023. Requires use of the Green Ash and Walnut Pavilions. Scouts will be camping and participating in Scout Olympics themed events focusing on scout skills and games. Motion to approve the special event permit for the Northeast Iowa Council at Swiss Valley Park was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

Northeast Iowa Council BSA, Cub Scout Cubaree, Oct. 20-21, 2023. Requires use of Green Ash and Walnut Pavilions. This Cub Scout event will be carnival themed events including BB gun and archery range and petting zoo. Motion to approve the special event permit for Swiss Valley Park was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDING FOR HERITAGE TRAIL:

The Conservation Board was awarded a \$500,000 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant through the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS). Ed Raber, Planning & Development Director for Dubuque County explained the options the Conservation Board has in regards to the funding. Dyersville City Council Member Mike Oberbroeckling and City Administrator Mick Micchel, both spoke about the importance of the proposal to hard surface the western portion of Heritage Trail. Following discussion, a motion was made by Davis to recommend to the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors and the DMATS Board to reallocate the TAP funding for the eastern portion of the Heritage Trail to the western end connecting with the City of Dyersville. The motion was seconded by Pfeiler and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LICENSE AGREEMENT DRAFT:

Preston presented a draft license agreement from Alliant Energy/Interstate Power Company for the use of the Heritage Trail for an electric line and conduit for fiber optics. Dubuque County IT Director, Nathan Gillmore was present and added that it met the needs and vision for that portion of Heritage Trail from Clay Hill Road to Burton's Furnace Road. Following discussion, a motion was made by Wagner to

approve the draft license agreement and forward it to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and National Park Service for their approval. The motion was seconded by Pfeiler and carried.

MOU REGARDING IMPACTS TO THE HERITAGE TRAIL NHSX-003-9(25)—3H-31:

Preston presented the MOU from the Iowa Department of Transportation for the impacts to the Heritage Trail from the reconstruction of HWY 3 project. Following discussion, a motion was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler to approve the MOU with the Iowa DOT. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BANK STABILIZATION TWIN SPRINGS:

Preston presented the final plans for the Heritage Trail Bank Stabilization near Twin Springs Access. The project will stabilize approximately 425 feet of eroding stream bank. The bids are due 3:00 PM, October 17, 2023 and will be on the agenda for approval at the October 19th meeting. A motion to approve soliciting bids for the Heritage Trail Bank Stabilization Twin Springs was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HERITAGE TRAIL LIMESTONE RESURFACING:

Preston requested permission to solicit bids for limestone surfacing on Heritage Trail. The fill limestone would be placed on the trail in a windrow from Fishpond Road to Jamesmeir Road and will take approximately 1,277 tons of material. A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler to approve soliciting bids for the October Conservation Board meeting. Motion carried.

HERITAGE TRAIL 2024 USER FEES

Preston reported that the current 2023 Heritage Trail user fees were \$2.00/daily pass, \$10.00/annual pass, \$5.00/senior citizen pass and \$25.00/ family pass. Following discussion, a motion was made by Kehr and seconded by Wagner to maintain 2024 trail fees at the 2023 rates. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING REQUEST

Preston requested permission for up to 4 staff attend the Iowa Nature Summit sponsored by Drake University and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, November 15-17, 2023. A motion was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner to allow up to 4 staff to attend the conference. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston said the REAP Assembly has been set for October 24, 2023 from 1-3PM at the National Mississippi River Museum Depot. The final Dubuque County Water Trail Plan has been received and will present for approval at the October meeting. The wetland delineation has been completed and we are awaiting the written report. Preston has filed a Request for Public Assistance from FEMA for the spring flooding along the Mississippi River. A compensation study for non-bargaining employees in the county and will hopefully be ready for budgeting purposes.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler said the new prairie plantings had been mowed and fire breaks mowed for prescribed fires. Playground inspections have been completed and new parts installed to meet regulations. Rangers completed rifle certification and worked the cross country meet at Fillmore. Staff also mowed the sides of Heritage Trail for the final time this year and worked with volunteers to remove ash trees from SVP and convert them into firewood.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schaefer reported 16 programs, 377 participants. Time of the year used for wrap up of summer camps and planning and preparation for fall field trips. Upcoming events: Where's Your Watershed, seed collecting, career fairs, home school programming and Outdoor Adventures with Dubuque Community School District.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davis would like to see continued planning for drone footage long the Heritage Trail with narration from start to finish. Promoting all of our areas with drone footage, pictures and narration. Kehr asked for an update on the furniture at Fillmore and solar.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

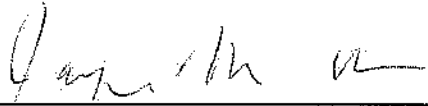
NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 8:00 AM to 2:20 PM, Park Tour

Thursday, October 19, 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 5:43 P.M.



10/19/2023

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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