



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

13606 Swiss Valley Road
Peosta, IA 52068
563.556.6745
www.dubuquecountyia.gov

Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

AUGUST 17, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board regular monthly meeting was called to order by George Davis at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link,

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84608105751?pwd=ZXhPOFlcS9oMjNQbkM4d2RQbDZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 846 0810 5751, Passcode: 134571

ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Taylor Schaefer, Ryan Petty and Lisa Schroeder.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the July 27, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the July 31, 2023 special meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr.

Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSALS:

Audrey Kilgore, 1685 Westridge Dr., Dubuque, IA 52002, Troop 194. Selfie stands around Dubuque area. This project would help tourists and locals capture the beauty of Dubuque parks and beautiful places in the area. The first one would be placed at Swiss Valley Park overlooking the walking bridge across the water, the second one at the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve trail head entrance overlooking the valley and the last two at Little Maquoketa River Mounds. If approved, would start right away in August and plan to have completed before the beginning of next summer. Kehr commented keeping consistency with signage and modeling the current wording on the selfie stands at Whitewater Canyon. Motion to approve Audrey Kilgore, Eagle Scout project for selfie stands was made Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

Riley Dieters, 8432 Circle Dr., Peosta, IA 52068, Troop 48. Replace a flag pole at Graf Park that was originally put up by his Great Grandfather. The flag has great meaning and wants to give back to his hometown. Davis and Kehr both would like to see a plan for replacing the flag and hopefully outside help from his troop. Dieters said his Aunt is the Mayor of Graf and would also look to her for help with this project. Motion to approve Riley Dieters, Eagle Scout project to replace the flag pole at Graf Park was made by Kehr and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

MOU REGARDING IMPACTS TO THE HERITAGE TRAIL IN CONNECTION WITH RECONSTRUCTION OF IA 3, NHSX-003-9(25)--3H-31:

Pedro Leanos, Transportation Planner for IDOT, would like approval for the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the reconstruction project of US52/IA3 from Sageville to Boy Scout Rd, in Dubuque County. The portion of Heritage Trail near Durango is within the project area and will have a De Minimis impact to the trail. There was updated language requested for the long term maintenance responsibility on the new culverts that extend from the road into the Heritage Trail. Leanos said they have addressed recommendations and updated the language on the MOU. Kehr said she did not see anything

addressed in the MOU in regards to long term maintenance of the culverts. Preston stated that the National Parks Service would not approve an easement referred to transfer of ownership or giving up land. Davis said an attorney should review the MOU before approval was given. Leanos said he would take this information back to his team for updates. No Action was taken

REQUEST FOR ELECTRICAL LINE, CONDUIT, AND FIBER ALONG HERITAGE TRAIL:

Nathan Gilmore, IT Director for Dubuque County presented on possible conduit and fiber along the Heritage Trail. Century Link/Lumen, REC/Maquoketa Valley and Alliant Energy would like to see a letter from the Conservation Board that they would not object to these utilities. Gilmore said he would like to bring all interested parties together to gather everyone's needs and requirements so we connect the county infrastructure. Conservation Board has interest but would need to see survey and plans. Gilmore said fiber we control would be beneficial. Possible grant opportunities from the state. We still need to work with the National Parks Service on approvals or agreements. Motion that Dubuque County Conservation Board is open to partnerships for developing buried fiber optical cable and electric along the Heritage Trail while working with the National Parks Service and Director for necessary approvals and drafts of an MOU was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston said the Heritage Trail overpass project would be starting after Labor Day and is estimated to be completed in 2 – 3 weeks. That section of trail will be closed during construction. Working on a temporary easement for the Heritage Trail fencing project. Bankston Pond Project, public input session will be Saturday, September 2nd from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Closed session in September to discussion land acquisitions. Tractor ride on the Heritage Trail went well it was beautiful day. Wetland delineation to locate the boundary or border of a wetland or watercourse to determine if there is any in the area and what might limit the trail connections. Connecting the Heritage Trail to the Proving Grounds, meeting tomorrow.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler said we had a lot of trees down, completed Massey hood cleaning and fixed gravel at boat launch, McCarthy wildlife area mowed, a lot of mowing and patrolling. Trimmed trees along the Heritage Trail for the wagon ride. New tires for bat wing mower, bad year for wasp nest, New Wine creek crossing repaired. Mike has been removing dead Ash trees at Fillmore.

RANGER REPORT: Petty reported they checked fence on all county properties, prescribed burns in the spring, flood clean up, fixed creek crossing, equipment maintenance, rifle training, river patrol, issues with homeless using campgrounds, playground resurfacing, training new rangers, animal calls, more disturbance calls this year in our areas and alarm calls.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schaefer reported 51 programs, 1,304 participants, finished summer camps, teacher trainings and Summer BOW. Outdoor adventure dates and programming set up. Upcoming events: Dyersville Conservation Days, Monarch tagging, after school programs and school field trips. Gave an overview of the new action track chair and demonstration.

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 August 2023 payables was made by Conforti and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center, with a closed session at the end

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.

Caryn M. K 10/19/23

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER

James Pfeiler

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER