



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

OCTOBER 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board regular monthly meeting was called to order by George Davis at 4:02 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link,

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86544790089?pwd=eN3GZ7AgYAla5JKxmoqbY6FW2CxyiU.1>

Meeting ID: 865 4479 0089 Passcode: 133841

ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Jason Denlinger and Lisa Schroeder.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the September 21, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the October 11, 2023 park tour minutes was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL BANK STABILIZATION TWIN SPRINGS:

Bids were opened Tuesday, October 17th at 3:00 P.M. Project CON-158901-FY24 received six bids. Top Grade Excavating Inc. \$96,722.65, Offset Construction LLC \$107,391.25, Gansen Excavating Inc. \$119,202.70, McDermott Excavating \$118,640.20, Connolly Construction Inc. \$142,844.65 and Midwest Concrete \$99,636.14. Motion to award the Heritage Trail bank stabilization Twin Springs bid to Top Grade Excavating Inc. for \$96,722.65 was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL LIMESTONE RESURFACING:

Preston opened four bids. Kluesner Construction \$15,707.10, River City Stone \$16,588.23, Kemp Trucking \$17,047.95 and Midwest Concrete Inc. \$16,575.46. Motion to award the Heritage Trail limestone resurfacing bid to Kluesner Construction for \$15,707.10 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR MUD LAKE PAVILION CONCRETE:

Preston opened two bids for concrete. Kinsella Concrete Construction \$13,800.00 and Kane Brothers Concrete LLC \$20,726.25. Concrete work to be completed this fall and Conservation staff will construct the new pavilion this winter. Motion to award the Mud Lake pavilion concrete bid to Kinsella Concrete Construction for \$13,800.00 was made by Wagner and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF DUBUQUE COUNTY HANDBOOK:

Dubuque County approved a new employee handbook that went into effect July 1, 2023. Increased benefits for staff. Wagner expressed concern with Conservation employees pertaining to county vehicles and transporting public. Preston stated that we have waivers to ride in county vehicles. Ed Raber, Project Coordinator for Dubuque County commented that working with Human Resources to include Conservation in suggested areas. Davis stated to forward concerns to Human Resources for further review. Motion to

adopt the Dubuque County Handbook that went into effect July 1, 2023 was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF DUBUQUE COUNTY WATER TRAIL PLAN:

Three projects that we would be able to move forward on. Budgeted in FY 2024, potential grants, well received from public. Preston recommend we move forward. Motion to adopt the Dubuque County Water Trail Plan was made Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported the Heritage Trail overpass project was complete. New park ranger is in the process of completing testing. Operating budget will be due November 22nd. The supervisors are requesting that operating budgets remain flat. November meeting review operating budget and user fees. Tentative work session set before December 1st to review capital projects and personnel requests. Seven wagon rides this fall, well received. Action track chairs have provided opportunities for school groups and public users to get out on the trails at Swiss Valley.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported Nick Banwarth and AmeriCorps planted acorns and removed invasive species. Fire breaks mowed, volunteers cleaned fire rings at Massey, trimmed trails at Swiss Valley for the trail run. Burned flood debris, cleared trees, repaired mowers. Split unit is complete at the Miller Cabin. Rocked new pit latrines at IPC and Whitewater Canyon. Rocked boat ramp at Massey, planted memorial trees assisted Eagle Scout at Heritage Pond. Fall fire arms training, pesticide training complete, stripe the parking lot at the shooting range.

NATURALIST REPORT: Denlinger reported 35 programs, 1,535 participants, 3rd grade Outdoor Adventures, programs with Wahler Biology, Hempstead ecology classes, middle school career fairs, prairie see harvest and kayaking with teens and River Museum. Upcoming events: Halloween Hike, Owl Prowl at New Wine Park, John Deere Health Fair, 2nd grade Outdoor Adventures@NMRMA, Iowa Nature Summit. ICCS 2023 Fall Conference overview.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davis would like to see continued planning for drone footage along the Heritage Trail with narration from start to finish. Edwards Creative is a family business that opened a location in Dyersville. They would be a good alternative for some graphic design. Davis wanted to be upfront with a possible land donation in conjunction with connecting the Heritage Trail. Possibility of property for sale north of Cascade estimate of 20 acres. Kehr would like to set goals for smaller projects that tie into larger projects. Marketing the worthwhile services we provide.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:39 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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