



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

Stacy Conforti
George Davis
Jackie Kehr
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler

DECEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88975631569?pwd=DmGRMWAo2nGxKsMyy0yPrdrBQxUpN5.1>

Meeting ID: 889 7563 1569 Passcode: 691366

ROLL CALL:

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

Dave Neises, 20987 Mud Lake Rd., Dubuque, IA 52001. Shared some history about Mud Lake Park originally being his family's farm. He saw the upgrades we are making to the current pavilion and suggested we rename the pavilion Wagner Pavilion after Benny Wagner who farmed the area before the government built its navigation dams. Neises offered to pay for signage for the pavilion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the November 16, 2023, regular meeting minutes was made by Davis and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the November 30, 2023, work session meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

Mark Dalsing Memorial Run, Heritage Trail, May 18, 2024. Preston recommended approval, this is the second year, and everything went well last year. Motion to approve special event application for Mark Dalsing Memorial run was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

Wedding Ceremony Swiss Valley Nature Preserve, June 1, 2024. Mallory Imobersteg, 4285 Little Platte Ln., Platteville, WI 53818, application is aware of parking and will have guest carpool. Conforti said signage would be helpful so other park users would be aware. Motion to approve special event application for Loeffelholz/Imobersteg wedding ceremony was made by Davis and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

CLAYTON GIBBS REQUEST ON REZONING 1 ACRE OF HIS LAND FROM C-1 CONSERVANCY TO A-2 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL:

Mike Weber, Weber Surveying, LLC, asked the Conservation Board to review a change of zoning for property located at 12281 Lovers Ln., Sherrill, IA 52073 from C1 to A2, 1 acre. Property owner Clayton Gibbs would like to remove the old farmhouse and build a new one in the same location. The 1-acre parcel will provide him with a new legal description from the farm so he can have a separate mortgage. Preston said he saw no issue if no more additional houses were built on the property. Motion to approve recommendation to the Dubuque County Zoning Board for Gibbs request of 1 acre from C-1 conservancy to A-2 agricultural residential was made Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FY 2025 CAPITAL PROJECT REQUESTS:

Capital project request for FY 2025 will be due by December 31, 2023. The presentation before the Supervisors will be in January 2024. Preston encouraged the Conservation Board members to attend.

Proposed Fish Habitat Grant was approved at the District VI meeting. Motion to approve the FY 2025 Capital Project requests was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR A NEW SMALL PICKUP TRUCK WITH EXTENDED CAB:

Motion to approve soliciting bids for a new small pickup truck with extended cab was made by Wagner and seconded by Davis. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR A NEW REGULAR CAB AND CHASSIS TRUCK WITH SERVICE BODY:

Motion to approve soliciting bids for a new regular cab and chassis truck with service body and amended trading 2006 truck was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR A 4X4 UTILITY VEHICLE:

The current John Deere Gator has no rollover protection and is only two-wheel drive. No value in a trade, will sell out right. Motion to solicit bids for a 4X4 utility vehicle was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR A MOWER:

Motion to solicit bids for a mower was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

TRAINING REQUEST FOR STAFF:

Winterfest, January 23rd thru the 25th, 10 staff members. Motion to approve staff training request was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston said Top Grade completed the bank stabilization at Twin Springs today. District VI meeting, Fish Habitat scored well, operation budget was 10 minutes and the Supervisor's thanked us for the flat budget, staff completed CPR training, FEMA has submitted two projects, we are working on mitigation with FEMA for the shower doors at Massey and Mud Lake. The grant for paving Heritage Trail is at the DMATS advisory board local approval and then is sent to Des Moines, hoping to hear more in January, if approved preliminary design in 2024 and paving in 2025.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler said solar light at EB Lyons is installed, trimming on Heritage Trail from Cemetery Rd to Jamesmeier Rd approximately 3 miles complete, new registration holders for campers installed, shingled and insulated the well house at Mud Lake, park rangers helped with checking license for deer hunters, new camera installed for illegal dumping, so far 4 positive test for CWD in Dubuque County, Finley's Landing area, Military Rd/Oakland Farms Rd., and the Monastery.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schober reported 29 programs and 627 participants. Cedar wreath making, career fairs, restoration days, Forest School, Preschool Outdoor Adventures, take CAARE – high school group and illuminate the night hike at Whitewater. Upcoming events: Wolf display at EB Lyons, New Year bird count, Forest school – winter tracks, Winter BOW and Outdoor Adventures.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Wine house, meeting with County Attorney to discuss options. Preston said it's important to have a ranger in the park. It makes visitors feel more comfortable. Trail crew positions will be posted after the first of the year. Impact 7G is working on a wetland feasibility study we are currently waiting for more information.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

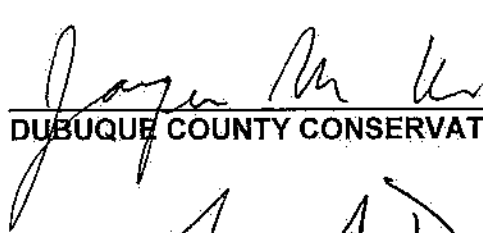
Motion to approve the December 2023 payables was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

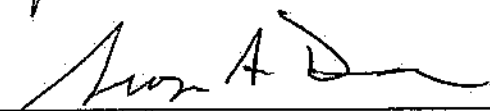
NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 18, 2024, 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 5:06 P.M.

 1/18/24
DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER


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