



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88629622652?pwd=4kM4hX6yyG2FsPZHsP7Oj6zXZl6xPM.1>

Meeting ID: 886 2962 2652 Passcode: 448111

ROLL CALL:

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the January 18, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

CCI SHERRILL – PIONEER WIRELESS LLC APPROVAL REQUEST ON C-1 CONSERVANCY:

Pioneer Wireless, LLC would like to add additional equipment to the existing cellular communication tower at 15824 Haberkorn Rd., Sherrill, IA 52073. This will not alter the tower height or the existing leased ground space. Denis Azarov, with Tower Engineering Professional, Inc. dazarov@tepgroup.net, was available on Zoom for any questions. Currently there is an easement with a gravel road to the tower. No permit required since there is no new structure being added. Preston's recommendation was to approve since there would not be an additional structure added. Motion to approve Pioneer Wireless LLC request to add additional equipment to the current structure was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Drew Morarend, 2020 Wedgewood Dr., Dubuque, IA 52002, Troop 51, hammock project. Swiss Valley Park and Graf Park, install wood post in cement for the attachment of hammocks. Encourages relaxation in the outdoors, adds unique features to Swiss Valley Park and Graf Park, and prevents destruction of trees. Will research and add signage for instruction and weight requirements for eye bolts. Motion to approve Drew Morarend's Eagle Scout Project for hammock posts at Swiss Valley Park and Graf Park was made by Conforti and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

Former Great River Rumble, July 30, 2024 camping at Finley's Landing. Would like to rent the pavilion for a group meal Tuesday evening and breakfast Wednesday morning. Preston's recommendation was to approve since this is on a Tuesday during the week and it would not interfere with normal park or campground use. Motion to approve the special event application for the former Great River Rumble at Finley's Landing was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROPOSAL FOR EAST SWISS VALLEY PARK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS:

Endeavor Civil Engineering professional services agreement to design and prepare plans and contract documents for improvements to approximately 900' of roadway and parking lot at the maintenance building site. Fee for survey, engineering design, plan, and contract documents \$4,500.00. The budgeted

amount for the project is \$40,000.00, engineering cost around 10% of the project. Motion to approve Endeavor Civil Engineering professional service agreement for East Swiss Valley Park Road improvements was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROPOSAL FOR MASSEY MARINA BANK STABILIZATION:

Endeavor Civil Engineering professional services agreement to design and prepare plans and contract documents for stabilizing approximately 1,000 feet of steam bank in the upper harbor boat dock cove. Fee for survey, engineering design, plan, and contract documents \$5,300.00. The budgeted amount for this project is \$50,000.00. Motion to approve Endeavor Civil Engineering professional agreement for Massey Marina bank stabilization was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

PICNIC TABLE LEG REPLACEMENT:

Pilot Rock is the only supplier that offers the size and galvanized table legs. The price quote is \$232.75 a table, total for 24 table legs and freight would be \$6,327.00. Volunteers help assemble the tables and staff deliver the completed tables to the necessary areas. Lumber would be an additional cost and is budgeted into the operational budget. Motion to approve the Pilot Rock quote for 24 table legs was made by Kehr and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

FILLMORE RECREATION AREA CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

Jeff Morriem, Divot's Golf Shop is interested in renewing the concession agreement for 2024. Divot's sold the golf simulator so there will be no off season use this year. Motion to approve Fillmore Recreation Area Concession agreement with Jeff Morriem doing business as Divot's Golf Shop was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

MASSEY MARINA CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

Rivers Massey LLC, owners Shawn Kelly and Jody Lovett are interested in renewing the concession agreement for 2024. Insurance costs with the gas dock continue to rise. Rivers Massey LLC provides convenience for public users with the gas dock, food, and sale of ice, bait and tackle. The rent is set at \$750.00 a month from April through October. To offset the increase in insurance we waived the first four months of rent. Their business is weather driven on how well they do. The fuel tank is only 1,000 gallons so no bulk discount. Preston's recommendation is to approve the concession agreement. Motion to approve Massey Marina Concession agreement with Rivers Massey LLC was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

US ARMY CORPS ANNUAL REPORT:

The annual report is part of the lease agreement compliance documents. Highlights for 2023 were the flooding at Massey Marina, Mud Lake and John Deere Marsh and new cement patio at Massey Marina. Upcoming projects include a new pavilion at Mud Lake, flood repairs to shower house and restrooms at Mud Lake and Massey and streambank stabilization at Massey Marina. Motion to approve submitting the 2023 US Army Corps annual report was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY:

Mud Lake, John Deere Marsh (Little Maquoketa River Delta) and Massey Marina are all together on one 25-year lease agreement with the US Army Corp of Engineers. Part of the application process is who has the authority to sign. This allows them to prepare the new lease agreement paperwork. The certificate of authority starts the process. Motion to approve the certificate of authority as presented was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Kehr. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Wagner brought focus to National Geographic Iowa highlights roadways for Monarchs. Dubuque County mowing ditches. Implementing roadside management plan. Conservation Department meeting with the Roads department on the timing of mowing to control obnoxious weeds.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston said he finished up forest inspections, working with the IDOT and DNR on trail connect at John Deere. Scott Kilgore was hired as the Trail Crew leader. Grounds Maintenance positions filled and working on interviews for Trail Crew and Conservation Aide positions. Mike White, Fillmore Supervisor, will be retiring on April 19, 2024. We had some Shad fish kills at Mud

Lake. Fish kill related to weather temperatures. Kehr asked about training and future plans for Fillmore. Preston said we will work on cross training at Fillmore. White is willing to give advice as needed. Working with Human Resources to see if we may advertise for the position early. Will work on documentation for procedures at Fillmore. Chemical applications at Fillmore require certification.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler said working on timber stand improvements at Finley, Bankston, and Whitewater Canyon. Collecting sap to produce maple syrup. Mud Lake pavilion is up and part way complete. Cut 10 trees at Fillmore, dead Ash trees, produced firewood, cleaned up tree trimming at Mud Lake. Repaired the docks at Massey from all the snow. Wood Duck and Kestrel boxes cleaned. EB Lyons animal tanks up and running no more leaks. Staff attended Winterfest training.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schaefer reported 21 programs and 467 participants for December and January. Highlights include night hikes, wood carving with buckthorn, taping trees for maple sap, Forest School, preschool programs, and Winterfest. Upcoming events: Summer camp postings, first grade planetarium - field trips, maple syruping programs, Landowner workshop, lunch and learns, Friends pancake breakfast in March.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kehr asked if the wage study addressed supervisor or lead roles? Opportunities to share knowledge and responsibilities. Preston said the wage study does make suggestions for updated job descriptions and titles. The Supervisors have not made a decision on the wage increase at this time. Secondary Roads moved up their request for a woodchipper. If approved, we will take the old woodchipper. Conforti requested the new picnic tables be ADA accessible. WIFI is at Mud Lake for the new Kayak rental, waiting for the approval from the US Army Corps.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the February 2024 payables was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 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 5:32 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER

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