



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Stacy Conforti

APRIL 18, 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/87486307728?pwd=DYimBX64mYxcCgKVpl39jblJ5uZmSv.1>
Meeting ID: 874 8630 7728 Passcode: 365692

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: George Davis, Mark Wagner, Jim Pfeiler and 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 March 21, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Joah Breitbach, 15408 Lore Mound Ct., Dubuque, IA 52002, Troop 51, Replacing stairs at the Little Maquoketa River Mounds. Will need railroad ties, gravel or woodchips, and rebar. Plans for fundraising include having a garage sale, asking the Friends Group, and asking business if they give an Eagle Scout discount. If approved by the board planned completion will be November 1, 2024. Motion to approve Joah Breitbach's Eagle Scout Project for replacing the stairs at Little Maquoketa River Mounds was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

REQUEST BY KIPPER TO ALLOW ADDITION TO AN EXISTING HOME IN A C-1 CONSERVANCY DISTRICT:

Alec Schemmel, 302 1st Ave W., Farley, IA 52046. Schemmel is representing River Valley Renovations on behalf of Kenneth and Debra Kipper, site address 21402 Mud Lake Rd., Dubuque, IA 52001. Replace and existing addition with no footings. Zoning requested the Conservation Board review the request first and make a recommendation. Preston reviewed the plans and said this is a replacement that will be a little bigger but will not disturb any of the current vegetation and recommend approval. Motion to allow Kipper's request on a C-1 Conservancy to replace existing addition on home located at 21402 Mud Lake Rd. was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

SWISS VALLEY PARK ROAD IMPROVEMENT:

We have budgeted for repaving the East side of Swiss Valley Park Road. These plans include a small retention basin to allow for drain tile to improve the drainage around the shop area. It was surveyed to make sure drainage and elevation will work. Motion to approve soliciting bids for Swiss Valley Park Road improvements was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

HERITAGE TRAIL BRIDGE 11 RAILING AND DECK REPLACEMENT:

Origin Design, Amendment 1, initially the railing installation was going to be performed by Conservation staff. After reviewing the work required, the Conservation staff determined they prefer to hire a contractor to perform the railing installation. This bridge is very high, and a bridge contractor would have the proper equipment to replace the railings. The repairs are intended to extend the serviceable longevity for the structure. This amendment covers the additional services during construction and design revisions and bidding. Motion to approve the Director to sign amendment 1 with Origin Design for Heritage Trail Bridge 11 railing and deck replacement was made by Conforti and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried with 3 votes in favor and 1 abstained due to a relation with a signor on the Origin Design team.

FILLMORE CARPET REPLECEMENT:

Budgeted for FY 2024, \$16,000.00 for carpet, tables, and chairs. Three carpet quotes for 24 X 24 carpet squares were obtained. Each quote included a representative going to Fillmore and taking their own measurements. Mel's Carpet Outlet quoted \$13,177.27, Widmeier Flooring Co. quoted \$13,867.72 and Carpetland quoted \$14,090.00. Motion to award Fillmore carpet replacement to Mel's Carpet Outlet for \$13,177.27 was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston said, the new Greens Superintendent Ray Martin will start Monday, Mike's last day will be Friday, Monday morning we had a little surprise celebration thanking Mike for his 33 years of service. Johnny Norwood graduates tomorrow from the academy, he was elected class president and will give the commencement speech. Seasonals have started, we filled all the positions, hoping to get caught up on some projects. Massey upper harbor bank stabilization plans have been completed and submitted to the Army Corps and DNR for approval. All the parks are open, and the water is on for the season.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler said water is on and all water test were good, prairies have been burned, planting trees, 350 sapling in the ground, parks cleaned up, mowed most of the parks for the first time this season, produced fire wood, WIFI is up and running at Mud Lake, checking fences, Massey docks back in place gas dock hooked up, stick clean up at Fillmore, worked on equipment and cleared trees off Heritage Trail.

NATURALIST REPORT: Jason Denlinger, environmental highlights, 24 programs, 1079 participants, Easter Egg Hunt, 4th grade Outdoor Adventures will be finished next week. Moeller and Denlinger presented at the National Association of Interpreters (NAI), Spring BOW, Preschool Programs will be starting. Upcoming events include fish stocking at the Heritage Pond, party for the planet with the River Museum, rain barrel workshop, spring field trips and summer outreach programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kayak rental at Mud Lake, will talk to the Army Corp on May 1st during annual inspection. Conservation Board Member application is open. Supervisors are looking to appoint a replacement in June. Pfeiler asked if anyone received a survey from John Schroeder on the forest reserve program. Preston said Representative Shannon Lundgren and John Schroeder, Forester for New Melleray Abbey talked about forestry. In March ISAC asked for help to draft new forest reserve guidelines. Forest reserve dates back to, 1906 law and it's time to be revisited and changes made. We are losing Oak and Hickory forests that are important for wildlife in Iowa. Conservation is hoping to make recommendations to the law. Reaching out to Senator Pam Jochum and Senator Carrie Koelker about more education of forest reserve, some counties don't monitor it consistently across the state. Doing what they should be doing to get the exemption.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the April 2024 payables was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:56 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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