

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
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Brian Preston, Director
Board Members:
George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Stacy Conforti
Susan Miller

JUNE 20, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by George Davis at 4:05 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88024438680?pwd=H2Kb8S7c2yveXoRKee7bmSBesVH3CK.1>
Meeting ID: 880 2443 8680 Passcode: 981222

ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Ray Martin and Jason Denlinger.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED COST FOR THE DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, BANKSTON PARK POND AND A.D.A. TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS:

Motion to open the public hearing for the Bankston Park Pond and ADA Trail Improvements was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried and the public hearing was opened at 4:07P.M.

No public comment was made.

The public hearing for the Bankston Park Pond and Trail Improvements was closed at 4:08 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Preston reported that a spelling error under the Directors Report was corrected from the draft sent out with the agenda packet. A motion to approve the May 16, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION:

Northeast Iowa Council, Swiss Valley Park, October 19, 2024, 12:00 PM-4:00 PM, Cub-A-Ree.

Preston said they expected approximately 200 scouts to participate and recommended approval.

Motion to approve the Northeast Iowa Council, BSA Cub-A-Ree application was made by Conforti and seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) AGREEMENT FOR HERITAGE TRAIL HARD SURFACING PROJECT:

Award TAP grant funds \$500,000.00, local match \$125,000.00 for a total project cost of \$625,000.00.

Project has been approved for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027).

The Dubuque County Conservation Board will be required to work with the Iowa DOT to initiate this process. DMATS TAP Programming Agreement will need to be signed. The next step will be to receive authorization from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Motion to approve the Director, Brian Preston to sign the Transportation Alternatives Program Agreement for Heritage Trail hard surfacing project was made by Conforti and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM #3866 "IOWA DRIFTLESS FLOODPLAIN RESILIENCE AND RESTORATION PROJECT":

Eric Schmechel and Preston drafted the RCPP #3866 project letter for the Dubuque County Conservation Boards approval. The RCPP proposal would require the Conservation Board to approve in-kind \$900,000.00 for land management of native prairie establishment, seeding, mowing, chemical application and burning for 450 acres in the Little Maquoketa Greenway Project for over three years, project management in-kind \$78,000.00 over five years and outreach in-kind \$13,917.00 over five years. Total amount of \$991,917.00 over the five years for this project. Motion to approve Director, Brian Preston to sign pledge letter for Regional Conservation partnership program #3866 Iowa Driftless Floodplain Resilience and Restoration project was made by Conforti and seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

FILLMORE SPRAYER REPLACEMENT QUOTES:

Ray Martin, Greens Superintendent presented four quotes for a sprayer. \$52,211.00 for a new John Deere Sprayer, \$47,000.00 for a gently used John Deere Sprayer, \$29,500.00 for a twelve-year-old John Deere Sprayer, and \$48,000.00 for a new Toro Sprayer. These four quotes include a trade discount of \$3,000.00. Toro was unable to provide a quote for a used sprayer. Martin said the current sprayer has been broken for the past two months. He has been using the John Deere 220-A on loan from Van Wall. Martin would recommend going with the twelve-year-old sprayer for \$29,500.00, it has worked well the past two months on loan and is already calibrated for the golf course. Preston said the FY 2025 budgeted amount is \$27,000.00 for a used sprayer. Motion to approve the purchase of a used John Deere 220-A sprayer for \$29,500.00 from Van Wall was made by Davis and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

NEW IOWA BUFFER PROGRAM

Allisen Freihage, Watershed Program Manager, 2950 Wildwood Dr., Dubuque, IA 52001 and Scott Hendricks, Conservation Agronomist, 430 English Ln, Dubuque, IA 52001. A New Iowa buffer program would hold easements on these buffers, looking to partner with Polk and Webster County for an application for funding grant. The Conservation would hold these permanent easements. Preston said we currently hold Conservation easements, and they are not time consuming. Landowners would volunteer for this program. Motion to work with the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation on a New Iowa Buffer Program was made by Wagner and seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

PERMISSION FOR STAFF TO ATTEND ICCS ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Preston would like to attend. Benefits of visiting other counties in Iowa. No Action was taken

PERMISSION TO ATTEND ISAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DES MOINES

Preston stated he would like permission to attend the Directors Association Meeting at ISAC August 21-23, 2024 in Des Moines. A motion was made by Conforti to give permission to Preston to attend the Directors Association meeting at ISAC and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported that a flash flood event on June 3rd cause large log jams on bridges #6 and #3 on Heritage Trail. Preston with a Supervisor and they agreed that debris removal on bridge #6 was an emergency and contacted Gansen Excavating who was the low bid for the last debris removal project. The debris on bridge #6 was removed on June 4th. Quotations were requested from three contractors for debris removal on bridge #3. Connolly Construction was the low bid and started work June 20th and will finish removal on June 21st. The prep cooler at Massey stopped working. Preston received two quotes from local vendors. Nieland Refrigeration was the low bid at \$2,187.00 and was ordered. Park use has been very high and several employees are on vacation. The black bear that made his way into the City of Dubuque has kept Preston busy escorting him out of town as

best he could. Bear breeding season should be wrapping up late in June and should alleviate the problem of the wandering bears.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: No report as Sisler was on vacation.

GREENS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported that the golfers have been happy with the condition of the course. Moss on the greens has been a problem with the wetter than normal conditions and may need to be aerated. Aprons are being aerated because of a thatch problem and tee boxes will follow. Martin stated that staff has been cutting off stumps from the ash tree removal and would like to budget for some removal of stumps in critical locations. The new irrigation software will now be receiving a monthly service fee and Martin will be looking into if it is year around or only when we are operating. Martin would also like to hold off on replacing the fairway mower that was budgeted for.

NATURALIST REPORT: Denlinger introduced Hannah and Malia who will be serving as interns this summer. Summer camps are continuing and recently wrapped up bee camp which was very popular. Number of programs was the same but participant numbers have dropped because of weather and smaller class sizes. Denlinger explained the new bioblitz activities that have been developed in several parks and Family Fridays. Denlinger highlighted several upcoming programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

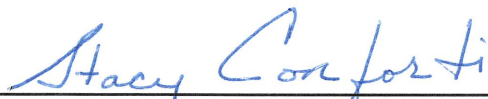
Motion to approve the June 2024 payables was made by Conforti and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Conforti and seconded by Miller. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:22 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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