

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
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Peosta, IA 52068
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Brian Preston, Director
Board Members:
George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Stacy Conforti
Susan Miller

JULY 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Mark Wagner at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81665446531?pwd=6ZZJa8CIXK52yEe5kLtrdWfEwFlxXS.1>
Meeting ID: 816 6544 6531 Passcode: 444977

ROLL CALL:

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the June 20, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSALS:

Charlie Zimmerman, 734 Julissa Dr., Peosta, IA 52068, Troop 5, Heritage Trail, Twin Springs, add another tent platform and make site improvements. Signs for pack in and pack out for trash, add benches and fire rings. Motion to approve Charlie Zimmerman Eagle Scout Project for a tent platform and site improvements along Heritage Trail, Twin Springs location was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

Chris Uzel, 2141 N. Grandview Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001, Troop 515, gave a recap of his Eagle Scout Project, removing invasive species. Uzel worked with Nick Banwarth, Conservation Technician trimming and removing Japanese knotweed. Julie Rodewald, Green Iowa AmeriCorps assisted as well. Uzel showed before and after pictures of the removal area at Swiss Valley Nature Center. No Action Taken

URSUS IOWA UPDATE:

John L. Hanson, ED.D. Founder of URSUS gave an update. URSUS has been a 501(c)3 since June of 2024. The Black Bear has no legal standing in Iowa. URSUS mission is to support legalization of the Black Bear through education, scientific research and support making black bear a game animal. Hanson would like Dubuque County Conservation Board to report bear sightings and scat, adopt model legislation and transition to bear-aware campgrounds and infrastructure. Hanson is working toward changing Iowa code to list black bear as a game species. Which would open opportunities for more research and protection for the black bear. Bear sightings reported this year on Shiras Ave. and Mt. Pleasant Home in Dubuque. Conservation Board thanked Hanson for his continued efforts.

MASSEY MARINA BANK STABILIZATION UPPER HARBOR:

Permission to solicit bids for slope protection/bank stabilization at Massey Marina, .2 miles in length, Project No. CON-148803-FY24. Bids would be due back August 15, 2024, no later than 1:00 P.M. at the Swiss Valley Nature Center. Motion to solicit bids for Massey Marina bank stabilization upper harbor was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR WEST JOHN DEERE RD CONNECTION:

Origin Design agreement for professional services for W. John Deere Rd. Trail Connection, Project No. 23087. Preston said this agreement is for the wetland mitigation. Motion to approve the Director to sign the professional services agreement for West John Deere Rd. Trail Connection with Origin Design was made by Miller and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried with 3 votes in favor and 1 abstained due to a relation with a signor on the Origin Design team.

PATROL VEHICLE COMPUTER REPLACEMENT:

Preston said we have two patrol vehicles in need of updated law enforcement computers. The current systems have aged out and we are having trouble uploading information and obtaining information. Keltek state bid for two new upgrades would be \$8,086.14. Motion to replace two patrol vehicle computers was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR UTV REPLACEMENT:

New Wine Parks existing UTV is 24 years old, and the starter and transmission is failing. Permission to solicit bids for a new 4X4 utility vehicle, bids due back by August 15, 2024, no later than 1:00 P.M. at the Swiss Valley Nature Center. Motion to solicit bids for a UTV replacement was made by Conforti and seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

PERMISSION FOR STAFF TO ATTEND ICCS ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE:

Iowa's County Conservation System annual fall conference is Tuesday, September 17th through Thursday, September 19th. Great learning and network opportunity for Board Members and Staff. Registration is due before August 2nd to avoid additional registration cost. Motion for Staff and Board Members to attend the ICCS annual fall conference was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported due to weather a large White Oak tree fell on the well house at New Wine destroying the building. We were able to have a tree service remove the tree, fix the plumbing and staff rebuilt the well house. Trees were down in all our areas. Over 100 trees down on Heritage Trail. We took the woodchipper to the trail and the Trail Crew and Blue Crew helped. The river has dropped, and Finley's and Mud Lake will open tomorrow. Bluegrass event will take place at Mud Lake on Sunday. Hopefully after the weekend the water will have receded out of Massey. Endeavor is preparing a proposal for stream bank work along Heritage Trail, East of Gun Club Road. The erosion is already into the trail surface, so time is of the essence.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: No report as Sisler was absent.

GREENS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported we lost one tree on the course due to storms. Blue Crew helped clean branches off the course. Staff has been cutting off stumps from the ash tree removal and would like to budget for some removal of stumps in critical locations.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schaefer introduced Melissa Hermesen seasonal staff with the DNR this summer. Hermesen helps with summer camps, educational programs and staffing EB Lyons. This is her 3rd summer with the DNR. Hermesen will be returning to the University of Iowa this fall.

Environmental highlights for July; 44 programs, 782 participants, summer camps, library partnerships, kayaking, stream studies and bioblitz. Upcoming programs include volunteer days, Family Fridays, and seasonal employees leading their own programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

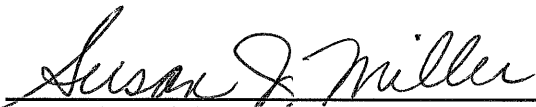
Motion to approve the July 2024 payables was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

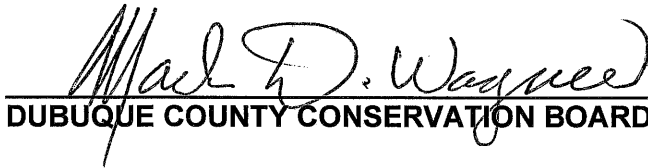
Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

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



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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