

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Stacy Conforti
Susan Miller

OCTOBER 17, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

DUBUQUE COUNTY NORTH AREA TOUR:

The tour began at 8:00 A.M. Board members present were Mark Wagner, George Davis, Sue Miller and Jim Pfeiler. Conservation staff present were Brian Preston, Nate Sisler and Lisa Schroeder. Tracey Martin, Human Resources Generalist also attended. Areas visited began with Kaufman Prairie, owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), one of the last native remnant prairies. TNC no longer has staff in the area to maintain this prairie and is looking to donate to the Conservation. Toured Sisters of St. Francis barn and 80 acres of prairie. The Sisters of St. Francis are looking for planning in the future, having Conservation take over the area for maintaining a prairie, trail connections and programming on the Northend. Next area was John Deere Marsh, which is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service with the assistance of Dubuque County Conservation. Improvements would be a trail that loops, restrooms and a boat ramp. Next Proving Grounds was hosting third grade Outdoor Adventures, able to view the new trail addition from John Deere to the Proving Grounds entrance, would like to add a new entrance sign. The tour continued to Little Maquoketa River Mounds, able to see the need for updates to the parking lot where the old HWY 52 was and the trail connection from Proving Grounds to the Heritage Trail would align. Continued to Heritage Trail parking lot off Gardners Ln., then traveled on the Heritage Trail past Flexsteel marsh area that is in the process of being donated to DCCB, next to the Heritage Pond where there was discussion about a kayak launch for the pond. Next Mud Lake, Johnny Norwood, Mud Lake Park Ranger talked about the purple martin houses, cleaned up fishing area and walk for users, and the sub lease with WW Corporation and Dockside. Norwood would like to see updates to the shower house, repairs to the pit latrine, updated entrance sign, ADA camping sites and new fire rings for Mud Lake. At Finley's Landing, Alex Scott, Finley's Landing Park Ranger requested a small tractor with a bucket for moving picnic tables, dirt work and other projects that arise. The tour continued to Bankston, this area allows camping, no electricity but would be easy to add in the future, improvements would be to add a bridge over the creek between the camping area and pond area. Next New Wine Park and campground talked about the upcoming upgrades to the campground and enjoyed a lunch break. Continued to Dyersville and drove on the Heritage Trail from Dyersville to Graf. Stopped at the Miller Cabin to view the new upgrades for ADA compliance. Del Bischoff, Heritage Trail manager joined us at Boge Rd. and continued on the Heritage Trail to Bridge 11 to view the repairs needed. Viewed the new fences along the trail that were completed last year. Exited the Heritage Trail at the Durango Depot and headed back to the Swiss Valley Nature Center.

BREAK

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by George Davis at 4:09 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link,

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88521503665?pwd=kq9E67AffQ69mm9bUJGRUnz6U29X9S.1>

Meeting ID: 885 2150 3665 Passcode: 095301

ROLL CALL:

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the September 12, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Lane Kieffer, 17505 Gondola Dr. Dubuque, IA 52001, Troop 94. Proposed a project at the Proving Grounds building two bike racks. One rack at the top of the hill and another at the bottom by the Leaping Deer Pavilion. This was a need that TMBR, Tri-State Mountain Bike group had suggested. Kieffer will reach out to local business for donations and also TMBR. Motion to approve Lane Kieffer Eagle Scout Project for two bike racks at the Proving Grounds was made by Davis and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION FOR STAFF TO ATTEND THE 2024 FALL IAN CONFERENCE:

Iowa Association of Naturalists in Tama County. Jason Denlinger and Addy Schober would like to attend. Motion to approve Denlinger and Schober to attend the 2024 IAN Fall Conference was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL LIMESTONE RESURFACING:

Limestone resurfacing from Graf Rd. to Budd Rd., 4.5 miles, 1,642.5 tons of limestone. We received three bids; Kluesner Construction \$21,270.38, River City Stone \$23,816.25 and Kemp Trucking \$23,816.25. Motion to award the bid for Heritage Trail limestone resurfacing to Kluesner Construction for \$21,270.38 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON NEW WINE PARK ELECTRICAL UPGRADE:

Public hearing for New Wine electrical upgrade will be set for Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. Motion to approve public hearing for New Wine Park electrical upgrade for Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR NEW WINE PARK ELECTRICAL UPGRADES:

Public hearing will be held before opening any bids. If any concerns arise, we delay opening bids. We are not sure if the project will be over the \$100,000.00 threshold. Looking for a start date in December. Motion to approve soliciting bids for New Wine Park electrical upgrades was made by Miller and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

BRIDGE NUMBER 11 MATERIALS:

Bridge 11 was on the North Park tour earlier. Material list and quotes as follows. Fabrication for railing components, three quotes; Kilburg Welding and Fabricating \$15,451.00, RC Welding & Fabrication \$14,316.00 and Performance Fabrication \$16,670.08. Nineteen steel support sections. Preston recommended RC Welding & Fabrication quote. Motion to approve RC Welding & Fabrication for \$14,316.00 was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

Bridge Timbers, would like to order Douglas Fir treated timbers. Wheeler, Whitewood SD was the only quote we were able to obtain. Mississippi Valley Forest Products no longer sells Douglas Fir treated timbers. Preston called bridge builders in the area, and they recommend Wheeler. Would like to order 24 – 6X8X8, 32 ft for \$2,634.24, 45 – 8X10X10, 66.67 ft for \$10,290.00, freight \$1,200.00 for a total of \$14,124.24. Motion to approve ordering Douglas Fir treated timbers from Wheeler for \$14,124.24 was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

Decking and Railings for Bridge 11. We obtained three quotes for treated lumber; 180 – 2X8, 16 ft., 8 – 2X8 8 ft., 96 – 2X6, 16 ft., 16 – 2X6, 8 ft., 24 – 6X6, 12 ft., 8 – 6X6, 8 ft. Tri-State Building Supply for \$6,490.40, Spahn & Rose Lumber for \$6,939.16 and Menards for \$6,123.44. Preston recommend going with Menards. Motion to approve ordering lumber for decking and railings for Bridge 11 from Menards for \$6,123.44 was made by Wagner and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HERITAGE TRAIL EMBANKMENT REPAIR:

East of Gun Club Rd. Endeavor Engineering drafted plans. The estimated cost of the project is \$44,000.00. Capital projects are a lump sum this year, so we have a little flexibility. The construction start date would be no later than December 5, 2024. Motion to solicit bids for Heritage Trail embankment repair was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR SWISS VALLEY NATURE CENTER PRESERVE FISH HABITAT PROJECT:

We were awarded a Fish Habitat Grant last September for approximately \$12,000.00. Location is right below the Nature Center along the stocking road. This would require about 300 ft. of stream bank stabilization, and 8 bank hides installed. Bids would be due back by November board meeting. Grant covers 90% of the cost of the project. Motion to approve soliciting bids for the Swiss Valley Nature Center Preserve Fish Habitat project was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR PARKS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN POSITION:

Maintenance Technician position was approved for fiscal year 2025. Preston has been working with Human Resources on position description and classification. Motion to approve advertising for Parks Maintenance position was made by Miller and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston recognized the NCCC crew, that has been with us for 5 weeks. The NCCC worked on timber stand improvement, prairie restoration and poured concrete. This crew started in January and has been traveling all over the United States working on projects.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported the Swiss Valley Nature Center has been power washed and stained, culvert installed at Heritage Pond, striped parking lots, replaced broken playground equipment at Massey, installed new signage, cleaned up Ringneck Ridge for the youth hunt this Saturday, updated bridge approaches for the action chair at the Swiss Valley Nature Preserve and cleared trees off trail. Thanked the NCCC crew for all their hard work the past 5 weeks.

GREENS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported they aerified greens this week, replaced the irrigation card and ordered a spare irrigation card, trash cans were removed from individual campsites and repaired four leaks. Demoed a John Deere mower and looking to demo a Torro. Obtained a couple quotes for the board to review for the budget.

NATURALIST REPORT: Schober reported Environmental Education highlights for September; 32 programs, 1222 participants, Monarch Tagging, OWLS Mississippi Fall Paddle, high school service days, seed harvest, Forest School and 3rd grade Outdoor Adventures at Proving Grounds. Upcoming programs, Monarch traveling exhibit at the Swiss Valley Nature Center, Halloween Hike, 2nd grade Outdoor Adventures, field trips and Illuminate the Night Hike at Whitewater Canyon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davis would like to see removing invasive species from the Heritage Trail as a priority. Possibly looking into utilizing local contractors for additional help with the removal of invasive species. Work on a revision of the strategic plan to be ready for a possible bond referendum in the 2025 election.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the October 2024 payables was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

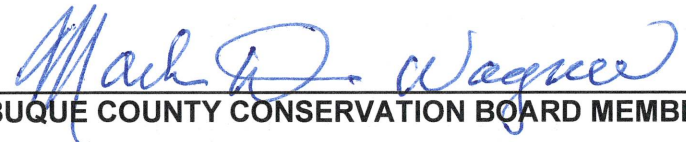
NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Davis and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:09 P.M.


DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER


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