



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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

Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Stacy Conforti
Sue Miller

December 19, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Mark Wagner, Vice Chair at 4:02 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87139228365?pwd=eTD79s0rjWtRTzJtHC75XGhjAd8jPl.1>
Meeting ID: 871 3922 8365 Passcode: 379506

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Mark Wagner, Jim Pfeiler and Sue Miller. George Davis, Chairperson arrived at 4:07 P.M. and continued to facilitate the meeting. Zoom: Stacy Conforti joined at 4:13 P.M. Staff Members Present: Brian Preston and Lisa Schroeder. Absent: Nate Sisler and Ray Martin.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the November 21, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve the December 11, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Miller and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 3-0.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Leim Dostal, 10757 Daisy Hill Ln., Dubuque, IA 52001, Troop 51. Proposed project to grow prairie seeds in pots and transfer them to the Heritage Trail. Two types of prairie seed were chosen, Prairie Dock because it's endangered and Butterfly Milkweed. Planting will happen in the spring along the Heritage Trail. Del Bischoff, Heritage Trail Manager, will oversee the planting locations. Motion to approve Leim Dostal Eagle Scout Project to grow and plant Prairie Dock and Butterfly Milkweed along the Heritage Trail was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR SEASONAL EMPLOYEES:

Conservation Aide, 6 seasonal positions and Conservation Grounds Maintenance, 3 seasonal positions. These are budgeted positions. Motion to approve advertising for Conservation Aide and Grounds Maintenance positions was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR A VEHICLE REPLACEMENT:

2012 Ford Expedition, is scheduled for replacement. Replacement vehicle request is for half ton 4X4 crew cab pickup. Crew cab pickup allows for the same amount of seating and more flexibility for hauling tools and program supplies. Bids would be due back by the January board meeting. Motion to approve soliciting bids for a half ton 4X4 crew cab pickup and trading a 2012 Ford Expedition was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 5-0.

HERITAGE TRAIL FENCING BIDS:

Fencing repair along Heritage Trail at Keller/Burds; Thoma Fencing submitted a bid for \$21,840.00, Hulscher Fencing submitted a bid for \$13,650.00 and Heiar Fencing didn't submit a bid. Motion to award the fencing bid along Heritage Trail to Hulscher Fencing for \$13,650.00 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

KAYAK LAUNCH QUOTES:

Three kayak launches; Mud Lake, John Deere Marsh and Heritage Pond. There are only two vendors in this area, so we were not able to get a third quote. The first quote is from Schwig Outdoors, Adel, IA for \$40,881.82 and TWR Dock and Marine, Lamont, IA for \$43,940.86. Preston recommended going with Schwig. We have used them in the past for our fishing and courtesy docks. We have a budget of \$50,000.00 for the kayak launches. Motion to award the kayak launch purchase to Schwig Outdoors for \$40,881.82 was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

REVIEW FILLMORE GOLF FEES:

Reviewed golf fees with Jeff Morriem, Golf Pro and Ray Martin, Greens Superintendent at Fillmore. Morriem recommended raising the weekend rates by \$1 and the season passes for single and family by \$25. Preston said those are minimal increases and he would recommend the change in fees. Motion to revise Golf fees for calendar year 2025 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF FY2026 OPERATING BUDGET AND FY2025 BUDGET RE-ESTIMATE:

Proposed in work session on December 11, 2024, under Park Maintenance/Operations Expenditures that we increase the sanitation & disposal services by \$5,000.00 and under Recreation Services Expenditures, which represents Fillmore's budget also an increase of \$1,000.00 in sanitation & disposal services. FY2025 budget amendment; Recreation Services Expenditures for Fillmore; lower line-item chemicals & gases by \$4,000.00 and fertilizer & seed by \$6,000.00 and add \$6,000.00 to line-item fixed plant repair and add \$4,000.00 to miscellaneous repair. Motion to approve the re-estimate of FY2025 Budget and approval of the FY2026 Operating Budget for Dubuque County Conservation Board was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF FY2026 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Proposed Capital Projects for FY2026 discussed during the work session on December 11, 2024; 2020 South patrol truck, mower replacement, ditch mower, Swiss Valley electrical upgrade, Fillmore campground expansion and electrical upgrade, Miller house demo, Massey gas pump upgrade, Massey gas dock repair, updated comprehensive plan, Mowing to Monarchs, Bankston footbridge, park entrance signs, finish trail to Proving Grounds, well pump at Fillmore, Bridge 30 on Heritage Trail with the possibility of a grant. Total proposed Capital Project request \$808,000.00 without the State Recreation Trail Grant for Bridge 30. Preston said he received an update on the estimate for the comprehensive plan and an update on the State Recreation Trail Grant being a cost share of 75%. These updates change the total proposed amount of \$808,000.00 to \$628,000.00 with the grant for Bridge 30. Motion to approve FY2026 Capital Project Request for \$628,000.00 was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

PARK ENTRANCE SIGN DESIGNS:

Three initial sign designs were presented. Consensus was to make Dubuque County Conservation more prominent and drop the word "board" from the sign. Use the Oak leaf on sign design labeled "C". Motion to approve Park Entrance sign C as initial step in the design process was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 5-0.

PROPOSED CAMPING PLATFORM AT PROVING GROUNDS:

TMBR is proposing camping platforms at Proving Grounds. Preston is looking for the Conservation Board's input. The long-range plan indicated the public would like more primitive camping. We would need to change some wording in the rules and regulations to allow any type of camping at the Proving Grounds. Wagner was in support of primitive camping but asked if we thought of just clearing an area

with a picnic table, fire ring and open area for a tent instead of a platform. Preston said he felt the public preferred both options. Platform would give you an option to be off the ground if preferred. TMBR would like to see two camping sites. Pfeiler asked about restrooms and how that is handled along the Heritage Trail where we currently have tent platforms. Preston said the tent platforms along Heritage Trail are close to a pit latrine style restroom and there have been no complaints or issues. Wagner, Miller and Conforti all expressed concerns about the proximity of the sites requested to the location of a restroom and the issues that may cause. Preston said he plans to review the site locations for camping in the spring. The main reason for the discussion was to let TMBR know if they should proceed with fundraising for tent platforms. Preston will review camping sites with TMBR in the Spring of 2025 and bring suggested sites back to the board for approval.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported that Dubuque County had the top score for the Fish Habitat proposal for the lake in Cascade. Budget meeting with the Supervisors will be in January 2025. Heritage Trail has an 8 ft hole, temporary fill work, looking to replace a failed culvert. Ed Raber is working on revenue updates and charts to streamline budget communications.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the December 2024 payables was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 4:00 P.M, Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Miller and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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