



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Sue Miller
Stacy Conforti

JANUARY 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by George Davis, Chair at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81379536570?pwd=1XABxquCfCFoHYNTb0poV9TAWCZOHF.1>
Meeting ID: 813 7953 6570 Passcode: 38257

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Mark Wagner, Jim Pfeiler and Stacy Conforti. Zoom: Sue Miller
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Ray Martin, Taylor Schaefer and Lisa Schroeder.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 5-0.

ELECTION OF 2025 OFFICERS:

Preston opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair. A motion was made by Pfeiler to nominate Davis for Chair and seconded by Wagner.

Preston asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. A motion was made by Pfeiler to nominate Wagner for Vice Chair and seconded by Conforti.

Preston asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. A motion was made by Conforti to nominate Pfeiler for Secretary and seconded by Wagner.

Motion to close officer election was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to unanimously approve the nominations was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

BIDS FOR A VEHICLE REPLACEMENT:

2012 Ford Expedition, is scheduled for replacement. Replacement vehicle request is for half ton 4X4 crew cab pickup. Preston opened four bids. Victory Ford – Dyersville, three separate bids; 2025 F-150 XL, 3.5 EcoBoost engine to match the requested spec of a 3.5L gas engine \$42,138.00, 2025 F-150 XL, 5.0 V8 engine \$42,138.00, and 2025 F-150 XL, 2.7 EcoBoost V6 engine \$40,758.00, Finnin Ford, 2025 F-150 W1L, 2.7L 325hp engine, smaller engine than spec requested \$41,183.00, McGrath Chevrolet of Dubuque, 2025 Chevy 1500 Crew, 5.3L V8 engine \$43,986.00, Eagle Express Distribution LLC – Denver, CO., 2024 Ram 1500 Tradesman, V8 engine \$45,989.00. Preston recommended the 2025 F-150, 3.5 EcoBoost to match specs. Motion to award the vehicle bid to Victory Ford for a 2025 F-150 XL, 3.5 EcoBoost engine for \$42,138.00 was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

FILLMORE TIMBER HARVEST:

Forest management plan, stand three. State Forester recommended in this 1.6-acre area we harvest 13 walnut trees. Preston stated there are approximately 161 board feet. The goal is to make a more diverse forest. Preston would like to ask the Board of Supervisors to put the income from this timber harvest into an account for the purchase of a fairway mower in a couple of years. As part of the timber harvest contract, we would require they complete the harvest on frozen ground, they have 18 months to complete which would give them two winters, we also require payment upfront. Replanting of the trees would come out of the operating budget, replacement will consist of 100-150 bare root seedling. Motion to solicit bids for the Fillmore timber harvest was made by Conforti and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 5-0.

GREENS MOWER REPLACEMENT:

Preston stated that there are only a few vendors for golf course equipment. Martin obtained the following quotes, 2024 John Deere 2400 PrecisionCut Triplex Mower \$45,500.00, 2024 John Deere 2700 E-Cut Hybrid Triplex Mower \$55,000.00, John Deere 270 E-Cut \$67,800.00, MTI Distributing quoted, Toro Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid 3320 \$49,206.30, Toro Greenmaster eTriflex 3360 \$60,012.42. Davis asked Martin which mower met the golf course needs. Martin recommended the Toro Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid 3320 for \$49,206.30. Pfeiler asked what the budgeted amount was for this mower, Preston stated \$50,000.00. Motion to purchase Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid 3320 for \$49,206.30 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0. Conforti stepped out of the meeting at 4:30 PM.

FILLMORE CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

The current agreement is a yearly agreement set for renewal at the end of January. Bill Felderman contacted Preston about taking on the concessionaire at Fillmore. Preston spoke with Jeff Morriem, Divot's Golf Shop the current concessionaire and he has no complaints and would like to continue as the concessionaire. Divot's offers food for golf outings and special events. Some roller dogs, chips and snacks daily. Felderman has talked about more food options on a regular basis. Discussion about longevity as a benefit, competition is a good thing, short notice to not renew an agreement. Will review the Fillmore Concession Agreement in October and discuss opening applications for 2026. Motion to renew Fillmore Concessionaire agreement with Divot's Golf Shop for the 2025 season was made by Davis and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

MASSEY CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

River's Massey Marina LLC, Jody Lovett and Shawn Kelly are interested in coming back for the 2025 season. Motion to renew Massey Concessionaire Agreement with River's Massey Marina LLC for the 2025 season was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Davis. Motion carried 4-0.

TRAINING REQUEST FOR STAFF - ISAC:

Preston and Sisler would like to attend the Iowa State Association of Counties, Director Training in March 2025. Motion to approve training request for Preston and Sisler to attend ISAC in March 2025 was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported we have received two permits for the John Deere connecting trail and plan to bid out in March. We will need to set a public hearing date for this project next month. Meeting with staff individually for informal reviewing and opening lines of communication. Finished interviews for the Maintenance Technician position this week and have a contingent offer made.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported that the old pavilion shelter at New Wine has been removed, working on building new covered boat slips at Massey, cut and trimmed trees along the Heritage Trail, timber stand improvement in wildlife areas, and Nick Banwarth checked wood duck boxes today.

Conforti returned to the meeting at 4:58 PM.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported working on winter maintenance, chemical reports and adding more no mow areas.

NATURLIST REPORT: Schaefer reported 21 programs, 824 participants. December tends to be a little lower on program participants. Working on more outreach in Dyersville and Cascade areas. Highlighted programs include Western Dubuque and Senior High School career fairs, Becoming an Outdoors Women, Farley 2nd grade, Spanish hike, middle school after school programs, seed starting program, Sunnycrest Prairie restoration event, and family programs. Upcoming programs include Rattlesnake program, pre school Outdoor Adventures, illuminate the night hikes, Epworth 5th grade outdoor program, Peosta Elementary live animals, Forest School, OWLS snowshoeing hike, library programs, Galena 3rd grade and planetarium programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davis stated that the Field of Dreams in Dyersville is back on track. Expanding New Wine Campground will be beneficial. Preston said they met with Maquoketa Valley and the new designs for electrical will reduce voltage drops. We should have plans to review next month. Conforti recalled cabins at New Wine being part of the long-range plan. Preston said he would look into Destination Iowa Grants as a possibility to secure funds for the cabins at New Wine. Wagner complimented Preston on presenting information about the Forest Reserve Program and what it means to Eastern Iowa.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the January 2025 payables was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 4:00 P.M, Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Davis. Motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:19 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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