



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

FEBRUARY 20, 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/85329926293?pwd=d6LT35HGtPUklo84Q3iSOQtIRtJxmn.1>
Meeting ID: 853 2992 6293 Passcode: 366572

ROLL CALL:

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

Preston introduced Emily Schmidt, Maintenance Technician for Dubuque County Conservation.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the January 16, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

BIDS FOR FILLMORE TIMBER HARVEST:

Three bids were received. Kubitz Logging for \$11,251.00, Kendrick Forest Products for \$24,526.00 and Ben Bruggeman for \$41,213.00. Preston recommended Bruggeman. Motion to award the Fillmore Timber Harvest bid to Ben Bruggeman for \$41,213.00 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 4-0.

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON JOHN DEERE RD TRAIL CONNECTION PROJECT:

The construction of a trail from Hwy 3 to the Little Maquoketa River Mounds parking area. Work includes grading, PCC trail paving and wooden boardwalk. Origin Design will have plans for the public to review. Planning to bid out for April. Motion to set Public Hearing for John Deere Rd Trail Connection Project for March 20, 2025, 4:00 P.M. at the Swiss Valley Nature Center was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Plans for the project were updated and changed after meeting with Maquoketa Valley (REC). We will need to have another public hearing. Motion to set Public Hearing for New Wine Park Electrical Upgrade for March 20, 2025, 4:00 P.M. at the Swiss Valley Nature Center was made by Conforti and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

SOLICIT BIDS FOR NEW WINE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE:

Bids would be due March 20th and then opened after the public hearing. Motion to approve soliciting bids for the New Wine Electrical upgrade was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

SOLICIT BIDS FOR A DUMP TRAILER:

Sisler put bid specification together for a new or current year model dump trailer. Bids will be due back by March 20th. Motion to approve soliciting bids for a dump trailer was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

2024 ARMY CORPS ANNUAL REPORT:

We are required to submit an annual report to the Army Corps of Engineers. The report covers updates, financials, and five year plans for Massey Marina, Mud Lake and John Deere Marsh (Little Maquoketa River Delta). Motion to approve the 2024 Army Corps Annual Report was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 4-0.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR TRAIL CREW AND TRAIL CREW LEADER:

Trail Crew is a 6-week program consisting of 4 trail crew members and 1 trail crew leader. Motion to approve advertising for Trail Crew and Trail Crew Leader was made by Conforti and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported he will be starting Forest Reserve Inspections next week. A Senate GOP bill would repeal Iowa's Natural Resources Trust Fund. The trust fund was intended to be filled with a portion of any new sales tax revenue. But it has sat empty since its approval because Iowa has not raised its sales tax. Reach out to legislators.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported the new covered boat slips at Massey have been completed in record time. EB Lyons ceiling has been cleaned and mold removed. Heritage Trail, cleared trees along side of the trail, wood duck boxes checked and cleaned. Annual fire extinguishers inspections complete, EB Lyons fish tank door replaced, Mud Lake shower house received updates and face lift, blue bird box supplies cut, plowing snow, cross county trails groomed. The old pavilion at New Wine has been removed.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported on the D & K Products application program for 2025. Martin reviewed the quote of \$33,047.22 for chemicals and fertilizers with his plans to bring that total down.

NATURLIST REPORT: Schober reported 2025 Winterfest was a great conference, informational sessions and a lot of networking. In January there were 39 programs and 1,261 participants. Pre-school has been added to the Outdoor Adventures program this year. Highlights include a Night at the Nature Center, Forest School, Illuminate the Night Hike at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve, Rattlesnake Presentation from Ross with Allamakee County brought in over 150 participants and OWLS. Working with the Friends of MOS to update displays at EB Lyons. Upcoming programs: Illuminate the Night Hike at New Wine, 1st grade Outdoor Adventures with the Planetarium that Dallas County is letting us use, Forest School, OWLS and Nature Trivia Bee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Preston said the initial FEMA meeting was today to move forward on reimbursement from the flooding last year around the end of June beginning of July. No response from the DOT since the January 24, 2025 meeting on who is handling the Federal Transportation dollars for paving on the Heritage Trail. Proposed Water Trail Plan still has items that need completion before proceeding.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

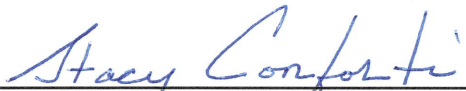
Motion to approve the February 2025 payables was made by Conforti and seconded by Wagner.
Motion carried 4-0.

NEXT MEETING:

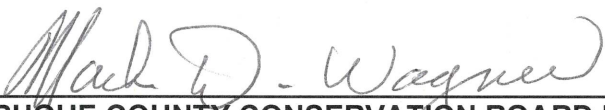
Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 4:00 P.M, Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:39 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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