



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

APRIL 17, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Chair George Davis at 4:03 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83634967554?pwd=jVgPN7glxwQ6xdP8UqVgbfjTHKav3r.1>
Meeting ID: 836 3496 7554 Passcode: 595184

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: George Davis and Mark Wagner. Zoom: Stacy Conforti. Jim Pfeiler arrived at 4:12 P.M. Absent: Sue Miller
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Ray Martin, Jason Denlinger and Lisa Schroeder.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 3-0.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

New Wine Park, Breitbach Wedding, August 9, 2025, 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., estimated 150 people. Most of the guests will be staying in the campground, bartender to monitor handing out beer, no additional security needed.

Fillmore Fairways, fund raising event, 5KM race, Friends of the Dubuque County Conservation Board, September 20, 2025, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., estimated 50 people. Entry fee, light snacks and drinks will be served after the race.

Heritage Trail, Run, Walk or Bike fund raising event, St. Vincent DePaul, September 27, 2025, 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., estimated 100 people. Plan to use the pavilion, an entry fee charged per competitor and luncheon celebration for competitors.

Swiss Valley Nature Center, fund raising event, Trail Run, Friends of the Dubuque County Conservation Board, October 4, 2025, 6:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. estimated 200 people. Utilize trails and parking lot, food will be served to participants.

Swiss Valley Park, Cub-A-Ree for Scouting America, October 18, 2025, 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., estimated 200 participants. Will utilize the Green Ash and Walnut pavilions in the park.

Motion to approve Special Event Applications for Breitbach Wedding on August 9, 2025, Fillmore Fairways 5 KM race on September 20, 2025, St. Vincent DePaul, Heritage Trail event on September 27, 2025, Swiss Valley Trail Run on October 4, 2025, and Cub-A-Ree on October 18, 2025, was made by Davis and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 3-0.

SOLICITING BIDS FOR THE WEST JOHN DEERE ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION:

Bids for the construction of Project 23087 will be received at the Dubuque County Conservation Office, until Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. local time. At that time the bids received will be publicly opened and read for consideration by the Conservation Board at its meeting at 4:00 P.M. on

May 15, 2025. Motion to grant the Director, Brian Preston, permission to solicit bids for the West John Deere Road Trail Connection Project was made by Davis and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 3-0.

REPLACE EXISTING GAS PUMPS AT MASSEY:

Sisler reported that only one gas pump at Massey is working. We have a quote from PIPECO to replace two pumps. PIPECO's quote for two pumps, shipping and installation is \$21,697.51. This is a budgeted item for FY 2026. Motion to replace the two existing gas pumps at Massey was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

LEASE RENEWAL DACW25-1-25-4016:

Mud Lake, Massey Marina and John Deere Marsh have a 25-year lease with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Working on this a year early due to the length of time it takes to complete. There is no fee for this lease since the operations and maintenance are for the benefit of public use. Subleases will need to be updated when this lease is complete. Motion to approve renewing the lease DACW25-1-25-4016 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY CAMERAS:

Axon provides the body cameras for the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriffs Department controls and manages all body camera footage. Axon's quote is for a 5-year agreement at \$34,578.26. If we pay the entire 5 years in advance, they will give us a discount of \$5,599.40. Preston recommended paying the amount upfront to take advantage of the discount. Motion to approve the Axon Quote for Law Enforcement Body Cameras with upfront payment for discount was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE CAMPFIRE RINGS:

The proposal presented was to purchase 36 campfire rings that are inground and rotate from Iowa Prison Industries for \$10,404.00 with additional freight cost of \$700.00. Motion to approve the purchase of 36 campfire rings from Iowa Prison Industries and freight costs was made by Conforti and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE PICNIC TABLE LEG REPLACEMENTS:

The proposal presented was to purchase 24 picnic table leg replacements from Pilot Rock for \$6,999.60 with additional freight cost of \$453.00. Table frames are interchangeable and have been used for many years. Volunteers are available to assemble them. Motion to approve the purchase of 24 Picnic Table Leg Replacements from Pilot Rock and freight cost was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR NEW WINE HMA PROJECT:

Endeavor Civil Engineering is looking at the New Wine HMA (Hot Mix Asphalt) project. The HMA would begin at the entrance gate at New Wine to the bottom of the hill and through the picnic area. Also, replacement of the culvert and washout above the culvert are included. This is a budgeted item for FY2025 at \$102,000.00. Endeavor Civil Engineering services proposal is \$4,900.00. Motion to approve professional services with Endeavor Civil Engineering for New Wine HMA project was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported that the IDOT HWY 3 work project abutting the Heritage Trail has been delayed for this summer and in October they may begin tree removal. Dyersville Heritage Trail paving, ECIA staff submitted incorrect information which has been corrected on the concept statement, design completed this year. New Wine will have an additional 22 sites with water and electricity and should be completed by May. Hoping to have Bankston Pond plans for

the agenda next month. Would like to recognize Stacy Conforti for being nominated for the Dyersville Chamber Women of the Year Award. New dock and kayak launch has been installed at Heritage Pond and hoping to complete Mud Lake and John Deere Marsh dock and kayak launch very soon. We would like to look at increasing the number of reservable sites at New Wine. There are a lot of campers that travel from out of town and prefer to make a reservation. After discussion it was noted that New Wine Campground will increase to 75% reservable.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported the gas lines have been hooked up at Massey, walks set on the docks, replaced rotten board on docks, prairie burns along Heritage Trail complete. Banwarth disced food plots, water is on in the parks and campgrounds except for New Wine and Heritage Pond. Heritage Pond requires a different system set up and chlorination and cut trees a long Heritage Trail.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported that the golf course came out of winter well. Jeff Morriem, concessionaire at Fillmore said this was the best March on record. Greens have been sprayed and the water system calibrated. Bruce Smith full time seasonal for the summer has started. Working on quotes for a New Fairway mower for next year.

NATURLIST REPORT: Denlinger reported in March there were 41 programs and 827 participants. 1st and 4th grade Outdoor Adventures, Maple syrup hike, Composting workshop, Birding Hikes, Forest School, After School Programs, and Citizens Science events. Upcoming programs: Spring field trips, Easter Egg Hunt/Hike, Kindergarten Outdoor Adventures about habitat, Service days with Western Dubuque and Hempstead High Schools, Teens Take CAARE, Snapshot Trail Cam Project, and summer planning as we will be short two Americorps due to Federal Funding cuts.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 4:00 P.M, Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Davis and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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