

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Sue Miller
Stacy Conforti

MAY 15, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Chair George Davis at 4:02 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89429666108?pwd=uMjKP2cqiaOlw0aGv6kCeXYbtifzNo.1>
Meeting ID: 894 2966 6108 Passcode: 312515

ROLL CALL:

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

John Schroeder, Forester with New Melleray Abbey, would like the Conservation Board to procure a Conservation Easement on the streambank mitigation bank at New Melleray Abbey and buffer along Prairie Creek and Catfish Creek to slow the sediment entering streams.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the April 17, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

Heritage Trail and Heritage Pond, Alzheimer's Association, August 15, 2025, 5:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., estimated 300 participants, with a 5Krun/walk and half marathon benefit for Alzheimer's Association. Preston would recommend approval; this is their 13th year. Motion to approve the Special Event Application for the Alzheimer's Association on August 15, 2025 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

AWARD BID FOR THE WEST JOHN DEERE ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION:

Bids for the West John Deere Road Trail Connection project were opened and read at 1:00 P.M. on May 6, 2025. Eight bids were received for Project 23087. The bid results were as follows: Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete, LLC for \$95,076.96, Top Grade Excavating, Inc. for \$97,451.00, Drew Cook & Son's Excavating for \$99,089.60, Valentine Construction, Co. for \$109,568.25, Midwest Concrete, Inc. for \$112,864.10, Gansen Excavating, Inc. for \$114,411.33, McDermott Excavating for \$131,285.05, and Tschiggfrie Excavating, Co. for \$150,339.20. Origin Design reviewed the bids, and it was determined the low bid was submitted by Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete, LLC of Cascade, Iowa, in the amount of \$95,076.96. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$137,000.00. Motion to award the bid for the West John Deere Road Trail Connection to Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete, LLC for \$95,076.96 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

MASSEY CONCESSION BUILDING COOLING UNIT:

Massey Concession Building has two cooling units and the unit in the kitchen is failing. It was recommended to replace it with a 3-ton ductless split system for cooling the kitchen. The condensing unit would be installed high on a wall with the other condensing unit to avoid flood issues. Sisler provided three quotes: Advantage Sheet Metal \$6,260.00, All Seasons Heating & Cooling \$6,365.00 for a Durastar or \$7,219.00 for a Mitsubishi and Schuster Heating & Pump Co. \$6,946.09. Extra electrical wiring to condensing unit is not included in the above quotes. The roof of the concession building would need to be removed before removing the failing unit. Sisler recommended replacing the one unit for the kitchen. Preston recommended Advantage Sheet Metal, we have worked with them on other projects. This expense will be taken from the general maintenance fund. Motion to accept the quote from Advantage Sheet Metal for \$6,260.00 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

FEDERAL LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND PARK INSPECTIONS:

Federal LWCF Park Inspections are completed every five years. We have 11 projects that received grant money from the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund and require inspection. Those projects were at Finley's Landing, New Wine Park, Swiss Valley Park, and Heritage Trail. Each inspection sheet is 4 pages long. Parks that have received and benefited from Federal LWCF Grants are required to be kept open for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. This requirement is for the entire park, not just the project site within the park. The Operation and Maintenance Assurance Statement provided for each inspection was read to the Board and a copy provided for review. Motion to accept the Operation and Maintenance Assurance Statement provided and approve Brian Preston, Executive Director to sign the Certification was made by Davis and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported that the new truck replacing the Ford Explorer would be in by the end of the month. Planning to have bidding documents for the Bankston Pond for the June meeting. Still waiting on permits for the Heritage Trail by Durango. Endeavor is working on the HMA project at New Wine, hopefully plans for the June meeting. The June meeting falls on Juneteenth, a County Holiday. So we will need to look at an alternative date for the meeting. New Wine electrical upgrade is complete. Army Corp inspections start next Wednesday for Mud Lake, Dockside and Massey Marina.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported the dirt work and seeding is complete at New Wine. Creek crossing at New Wine has additional steppingstones. The beaver dam at the Swiss Valley Nature Center has been removed, burns complete, checked trail and removed noxious weeds, trees and shrubs planted, food plots fertilized, mowing and patrol. Firearms Training this week and next week. Volunteers helped with planting at Miller McGrath.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported that May reflects his first year running the golf course. Golf is booming, irrigation is maxed out with the dry weather conditions. Everything is running smoothly.

NATURLIST REPORT: Schober reported in April there were 41 programs and 1,230 participants. Programs included 4th grade Outdoor Adventures, Forest School, Teens Take CAARE, Mushroom Forays, Woodcock Watch, Frog & Toad Surveys, Service Days and Field Trips. Upcoming programs: Field trips, Kindergarten Outdoor Adventures, Teens Take CAARE, Snapshot Trail Cam, Bat Guano Surveys, Butterfly Surveys, Frog & Toad Surveys and Water Quality Monitoring. Kaylee Luke has started as the seasonal for the education team. She is doing a great job, and it is beneficial to have extra help. Jason Denlinger is working with volunteers on classification of animals with the Snapshot Trail Cam.

OLD BUSINESS:

Heritage Trail paving from Dyersville for a 2-mile project has been approved by the IDOT. Looking to bid out this winter for a start date next year. Miller asked if there was any interest in being a sponsor for Bird Friendly Iowa and will get more information.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

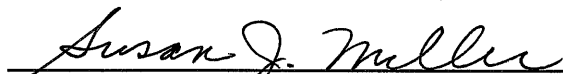
Motion to approve the May 2025 payables was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 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 4:53 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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