



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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Brian Preston, Director

Board Members:

George Davis
Mark Wagner
Jim Pfeiler
Sue Miller
Stacy Conforti

JUNE 18, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Mark Wagner at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86192189238?pwd=jbCPowtKhb6N3WXfs4th6abdVedaDV.1>
Meeting ID: 861 9218 9238 Passcode: 871573

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Mark Wagner, Sue Miller, Jim Pfeiler (joined at 4:08 P.M.), and Stacy Conforti (joined in person at 4:42 P.M.). Zoom: George Davis and Stacy Conforti (until 4:42 P.M.).
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston and Taylor Schaefer.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mike Oberbroeckling and Mick Michel with the City of Dyersville expressed support and offered assistance with the Heritage Trail Hard-surfacing project. The City of Dyersville would also be interested in partnering with the Conservation Board on the construction of restroom facilities for the trail at Dyersville.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the May 15, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Miller and seconded by Davis.
Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

Iowa Scholastic League Mountain Bike Race, June 27-29, 2025 at the Proving Grounds. Preston would recommend approval. Motion to approve the Iowa Scholastic League Mountain Bike Race on June 27-29, 2025 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

REQUEST BY IGO TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF A GARAGE IN A C-1 CONSERVANCY DISTRICT:

Mike Igo with Klauer Manufacturing Company requested approval for the addition of a garage in a parcel zoned C-1 Conservancy District. Preston reported that accessory structures are a allowable use in the C-1 District as long as they meet all setback requirements. Motion to recommend to the Zoning Board the construction of the garage in the C-1 Conservancy District was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Davis. Motion carried 5-0.

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR NEW WINE PARK HOT MIX ASPHALT SURFACING PROJECT:

Preston reported that his project will include an overlay of asphalt from the gate through the picnic area at New Wine Park. This project also included replacement of a failing culvert, repair of erosion along the roadway and an accessible sidewalk to the newly constructed pavilion. A motion was made by Davis to set a public hearing for July 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM at the Swiss Valley Nature Center on the New Wine Park HMA Surfacing Project. The motion was seconded by Pfeiler and motion carried 4-0.

SOLICIT BIDS FOR NEW WINE PARK HMA SURFACING PROJECT:

Preston requested permission to solicit bids for the New Wine Park HMA Surfacing Project. Bids would be due by 4:00 PM July 17, 2025. Motion to allow the Director to solicit bids for the New Wine Park HMA Surfacing Project was made by Davis and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

EASEMENT FOR NEW MELLERAY ABBEY STREAM MITIGATION BANK PROJECT:

John Schroeder, Forester with New Melleray Abbey explained the purpose of the Conservation Easements. Preston stated these easements would be a great improvement for water quality in the two streams. A motion was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller to approve the Conservation Easement Phase 1 (Catfish Creek) with New Melleray Abbey. Motion carried 4-0. A motion was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller to approve the Conservation Easement for Phase 2 (Johns Creek) with New Melleray Abbey. Motion carried 5-0.

SOLICIT BIDS FOR BANKSTON PARK POND RESTORATION AND AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT LOOP:

Preston requested permission to solicit bids for the Bankston Park Pond Restoration and ADA Loop. Bids would be due July 15, 2025, at 1:00 PM. Bids would be opened and WHKS will review and make a recommendation for the Board meeting on July 17, 2025. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Pfeiler to allow the Director to solicit bids for the Bankston Park Pond Restoration and ADA Loop. Motion carried 5-0.

MASSEY MARINA CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

Preston reported that the US Army Corps of Engineers is requiring the Conservation Board to replace the existing Lease Agreements with Sub-Lessees because the Dubuque County Conservation Board approved the new lease agreement with the Corps. The new Lease Agreement with Rivers Massey Marina LLC would be through March 31, 2030, and that the Corps of Engineers Real Estate Chief was added to sign off on the approval. A motion was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller to approve the new Massey Marina Concession Agreement with Rivers Massey Marina LLC. Motion carried 5-0.

WWC CORPORATION AGREEMENT:

Preston reported he was unable to complete the revisions for the WWC Corporation Lease Agreement and asked that this item be tabled. A motion was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller to table the WWC Corporation Agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATION:

Preston requested approval to approve application to the State Recreational Trail Program for the replacement of Bridge 30 on the Heritage Trail. The project would replace a timber pile bridge with a prestressed concrete beam bridge. The requested amount to replace the bridge is \$227,000 state trail funds and a local match of \$56,750 required. A motion was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller to approve application to the State Recreational Trail Program for funds to replace Bridge 30 on the Heritage Trail. Motion carried 5-0.

REQUEST TO PLACE SCULPTURE ALONG HERITAGE TRAIL:

Claudia Boss and Victoria Reed presented their vision to donate a sculpture in memory of Claudia's father, Richard Cade, one of the original members of Heritage Trail Inc. The sculpture is inspired by the spokes of a bicycle wheel. The sculpture would be made from stainless steel and reflect the natural surroundings. A motion was made by Conforti and seconded by Miller to accept a donation for a sculpture to place along Heritage Trail. Motion carried 5-0.

TRAINING REQUEST 2025 ISAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Preston requested permission to attend the Iowa State Association of Counties and County Conservation Directors Association Conference in Des Moines, August 20-22, 2025. A motion was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti to attend the conference. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported Park Rangers have been working some weekdays, some of this time has been directed at enforcement of trail user fees on Heritage Trail. Fire rings have been installed at New Wine and the campground improvements have been well received. Gas pumps and air conditioner have been installed at Massey. Public water supply inspection completed at Fillmore. New signage installed at Miller/McGrath Wildlife Area. New water fountains have been installed at Swiss Valley Nature Center. The new truck and trailer have been received. The trail crew began work this week, one trail crew member resigned after just 2 days. Preston will be meeting with Bard at Locher Lake to discuss the restoration of the area. Preston invited the Conservation Board members to consider attending the Fall Conference in September.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: None.

GREEN SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: None.

NATURALIST REPORT: Kaylee Luke, Kate McWilliams and Jaquelyn Hochrein introduced themselves to the Board. Schaefer's reported a record May with over 2,226 participants in Environmental Education programming. Summer camps have been busy and have extended Family Fridays, Bioblitz's, kayak trips and a nature coloring contest. The Blue Crew, local high school students that will be working on trail maintenance for 4 weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pfeiler asked about the status of the Bowstring Bridge. Preston reported he was working on some options for restoration of the bridge and hopes to have a proposal for the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, July 17, 2025, at 4:00 P.M, Swiss Valley Nature Center.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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