

**DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**  
13606 Swiss Valley Road  
Peosta, IA 52068  
563.556.6745  
[www.dubuquecountyiowa.gov](http://www.dubuquecountyiowa.gov)

Brian Preston, Director  
**Board Members:**  
George Davis  
Mark Wagner  
Jim Pfeiler  
Sue Miller  
Stacy Conforti

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## OCTOBER 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Chair George Davis at 8:08 A.M. In person meeting held at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85952338026?pwd=biYOF1LST31PbnxH8va9a1tJ5aMwLU.1>  
Meeting ID: 859 5233 8026 Passcode: 878449

### ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Addy Schober, Andrea White Dubuque County Budget Analyst and Lisa Schroeder. Absent: Ray Martin.

### PUBLIC INPUT:

None

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve September 18, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

### AWARD BID FOR HERITAGE TRAIL LIMESTONE RESURFACING:

Preston reported that three bids were received:

- Kemp Trucking (Durango): \$20,115.00
- Kluesner Construction: \$19,176.30
- River City Stone: \$19,109.25

Motion to award the Heritage Trail Limestone Resurfacing bid to River City Stone for \$19,109.25 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

### AWARD BID FOR SOUTH PATROL VEHICLE:

Preston opened three bids for the South Patrol Truck (budgeted at \$60,000 plus trade):

- Finnin Ford: \$49,463.00 – trade (\$6,500.00) = \$42,963.00 (2026 Ford F150 Police Responder)
- McGrath Auto: \$48,379.90 – trade (\$4,500.00) = \$43,879.90 (Chevrolet 2026 1500)
- Turpin Dodge (Dubuque): \$43,852.00 – trade (\$5,000.00) = \$38,852.00 (Ram 2026, 1500 Crew Cab)

Motion to award the South Patrol Vehicle to Turpin Dodge for \$38,852.00 was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

### FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Preston reviewed highlights from the 2025 Annual Report, prepared with contributions from Kaytlan, Lisa, Addy, Jason and Taylor. The Board expressed appreciation for their work.

### Highlights:

Record year for revenue in the parks just under \$800,000 in revenue.

Economic impact and outreach continue to grow.

Outdoor Adventure programs help educate youth, improve mental health, and encourage lifelong outdoor engagement.

Report fulfills annual state code requirement for submission to the Board of Supervisors.

**Comments:**

Wagner noted it was a professional, well-prepared report. Pfeiler recognized the department's strong self-funding efforts.

Motion to approve the FY2025 Annual Report for the Board of Supervisors was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

**DUBUQUE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**

Preston updated the board on the proposed parks master plan and capital improvement plan:

- RDG proposal includes kickoff meeting, public engagement, and visitation analysis using Placer AI cell phone data.

- The master plan will guide a 10-year vision with a detailed 5-year capital improvement plan.

- Conceptual planning for Locher Recreation Area was included to guide fundraising and grant applications.

Motion to approve the contract with RDG for \$79,360.00 for Dubuque County Parks Master Plan Update was made by Miller and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** Preston reported an overview of capital projects; most projects are nearing completion. One of the projects completed was the hiring a new maintenance technician, Emily Schmidt. Electrical upgrades and bridge projects were completed. Massey shoreline armoring completed. Water Trail and wetland projects are in progress. Forest resiliency grant submitted for \$161,000.00 to support tree planting and invasive species control. Upcoming two-day chainsaw safety training and instruction with Secondary Roads Department. Collaboration with Secondary Roads new position on roadside management using native prairie species and invasive control.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT:** Sisler reported Bankston well house and Finley's Landing roof repairs and maintenance completed. EB Lyons roof leaks repaired. Tree seeding at Whitewater; culverts at Proving Grounds; parking lot striping; fence repairs; fall firearm training; picnic table repairs; firebreaks mowed; routine trail maintenance.

**GREENS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Aerating greens; unable to attend the meeting.

**NATURALIST REPORT:** Schober reported that there were 1,205 participants for 26 programs, Student Ocean Conference, Forest School, Birding Hikes and Wild Harvest dinner at Whitewater Canyon.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Locher Recreation Area Agreement; officially named after Tom and Katherine Locher. Budget amendments and capital rollovers reviewed, public meeting November 17<sup>th</sup> for final transfer of funds.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Motion to approve the October 2025 payables and September 2025 Procurement Mastercard Cards was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd. Peosta, Iowa 52058.

### **PARK TOURS:**

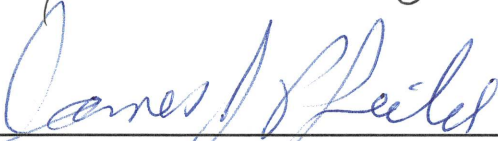
Tour began at 9:10 A.M.; **Swiss Valley Park**; HMA (Hot Mix Asphalt) pavement project, retention basin for run off, where the park flooded in August 2025. Reviewing operating budget for a crack sealing machine, would add 15 years to the park roads life expectancy, and improvements to the well in the campground. **Mud Lake Park**; will be replacing the entrance sign this spring, looked at the two-mile dike off the main channel, Mud Lake Park Ranger will be leaving in November of 2025. Mud Lake has had five different park rangers in the last 6 years, thoughts for exploring other options. **Finley's Landing**; options for adding additional covered slips, the uncovered slips need repair but are currently not being used. Pickel ball courts being added as an amenity. **Bankston Park**; reviewing the pond project that was just bid out. Bridge to connect the pond and campground. It is a very popular area for fishing. **New Wine**; break for lunch, viewed the new camping sites and electrical upgrades, Pat Schwartz, Park Attendant for New Wine gave a little history and said the feedback on the upgrades have all been positive. Thanked the board for the new UTV. Entered the **Heritage Trail at Dyersville**; drove along the two-mile stretch of the trail that will be paved in 2026. Farley would like to see a paved bike trail from the Farley access of Heritage Trail into the town of Farley. Viewed Bridge 17 and Bridge 30 that were just replaced. Viewed the Strathman Property that was recently given to the Dubuque County Conservation. Viewed the impact that the construction on HWY 3 is having on the Heritage Trail. Viewed the new paved John Deere Rd/ West walking trail connection at the Little Maquoketa River Mounds parking area. Continued past the Heritage Pond to a small trail parking lot off Gardner Ln. This parking lot is small but has some additional land around it to expand and possibly add a restroom. Tour ended at 2:30 P.M., arrived back at the Swiss Valley Nature Center at 2:49 P.M.

### **ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 2:49 P.M.



**DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER**



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