



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

DECEMBER 18, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Chair George Davis at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting held at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83115469952?pwd=HuVcBczpBtlyI3Rkcc8MT4ab5iklvv.1>
Meeting ID: 831 1546 9952, Passcode: 681900

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: George Davis, Mark Wagner, Jim Pfeiler, Stacy Conforti and Nick Callahan.
Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Ray Martin, Kaytlan Moeller and Lisa Schroeder.
Zoom: Jason Denlinger

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Wagner. Motion carried 5-0.
A motion to approve the November 25, 2025, special meeting minutes was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

ADOPTION OF THE DUBUQUE'S CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Kaytlan Moeller, Outreach Coordinator for Dubuque County Conservation and representative of the Dubuque Nature Everywhere initiative, presented an overview of the initiative and proposed Dubuque Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. Marie Ware and Jared McGovern joined Moeller in representing support for the adoption of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Moeller explained that Dubuque Nature Everywhere is a collaborative, community-based initiative focused on connecting all children ages 0–6 to nature every day, emphasizing equitable access and early childhood development. She outlined research-supported benefits of nature exposure in three key areas: health, education, and social connection.

Moeller noted that adoption does not create a financial obligation but serves as a symbolic affirmation that all children should have access to basic outdoor experiences.

Board members expressed strong support, noting the initiative aligns with the Conservation Board's mission, reinforces existing programming, and supports long-term conservation stewardship.

Motion to adopt the Dubuque Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and recommend its adoption to the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors was made by Wagner and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 5-0.

SOLICIT BIDS FOR A NEW MOWER:

Preston requested permission to solicit bids for a new out-front mower to replace an older Kubota unit. Sisler drew up bid specification to include a trade. The purchase was previously budgeted at \$35,000.

Motion to approve soliciting bids for a new out-front mower per drafted specifications was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Callahan. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

STAFF REPORTS:

Staff members provided updates on various projects and activities.

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported:

- Staff completed CPR, medical emergency and safety training.
- District 6 meeting was held at Hickory Hills Park in LaPorte City, IA; Dubuque County was recommended for funding for the Locher Lake Habitat Improvement Project.
- Capital Improvement Plan and Operating Budget submitted to the Budget Director; budget meeting with the Supervisors is pending.
- Proposal to advertise two park ranger positions, including one without a residence requirement due to staffing challenges at Mud Lake.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported:

- Facility maintenance updates including New Wine seeding, re-shingling Swiss Valley and Finley's Landing Ranger houses, insulation, drywall repair, and water damage repairs.
- Ongoing tree trimming, invasive species management, and winter trail maintenance.
- Patrolling during deer season.

GREENS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Martin reported:

- Seasonal update on winter conditions and limited operations.
- Discussion regarding potential changes to the clubhouse concession agreement structure to simplify fee collection.

NATURALIST REPORT: Denlinger reported:

- Program participation increased compared to last year. 1,467 participants in 37 programs.
- 2nd grade Outdoor Adventures.
- Highlights included school programs, prairie restoration, Cub Scouts, adult trips, and Snapshot Dubuque wildlife camera project.
- Noted a confirmed black bear image captured at Mines of Spain.
- Upcoming events include PreK Outdoor Adventures, Birding Hikes, Recycled papermaking and night hikes.

No formal action was taken; reports were informational.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Locher property acquisition from Northeast Iowa Conservation anticipated closing late January.
- Drone footage for conservation properties is being processed and will be shared upon completion.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the December 2025 payables and November 2025 Procurement Cards was made by Wagner and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd. Peosta, Iowa 52058.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Davis and seconded by Callahan. Motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:36 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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