



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

MAY 21, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Dubuque County Conservation Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Mark Wagner at 4:00 P.M. In person meeting held at the Swiss Valley Nature Center with a Zoom link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86106296894?pwd=fF2wBjzcVUGwEO6ihRJUfY7dQraLo1.1>
Meeting ID: 861 0629 6894 Passcode: 405923

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Mark Wagner, Jim Pfeiler, and Nick Callahan. Zoom: George Davis and Stacy Conforti.

Staff Members Present: Brian Preston, Nate Sisler, Jason Denlinger and Lisa Schroeder. Absent: Ray Martin.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Callahan. Motion carried 5-0.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Joseph Mills, 15915 Sandestin Dr., Dubuque, IA 52002 with Troop 51 presented his Eagle Scout project proposal. Heritage Trail, Twin Springs Pavilion 6' X12' near the camping platforms. The pavilion would provide shelter and additional amenities for trail users and campers.

Project details included:

- Concrete slab foundation
- Volunteer labor by family, friends, and fellow scouts
- Estimated project cost: approximately \$6,666.15

Jim Roling with the Friends group encouraged Mills to reach out to the Friends group for financial help. Preston recommended approval and believed this would be an added amenity at Twin Springs. Motion to approve the Eagle Scout project proposal by Joseph Mills for the Twin Springs pavilion along Heritage Trail was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION:

- Relay Iowa charity event starting at Heritage Pond on June 14, 2026.
 - 200 participants, Start time 5:30 A.M., End time 2:00 P.M.
 - Approximately 22 miles of the Heritage Trail.
 - Preston recommended approval. No issues the previous year. Also organizers would need to be informed about the current trail detour.

Motion to approve the special event application for Relay Iowa at the Heritage Trail was made by Callahan and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

AWARD BID FOR TIMBER HARVEST AT NEW WINE:

Preston reported that six bids were received for the New Wine Park timber harvest project as part of the Iowa Forest Resiliency Grant Initiative.

- Kendrick Forest Products for \$27,925.00
- Dan Jones Logging, Inc. for \$24,610.00
- J. Kubitz Logging, Inc. for \$22,588.00
- Brian Steines Logging for \$18,900.00
- Custom Tree Care for \$16,044.80
- B & R Logging for \$14,200.00

Motion to approve Kendrick Forest Products for \$27,925.00 for timber harvest at New Wine was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 5-0.

AWARD BID FOR TIMBER HARVEST AT WHITEWATER CANYON:

Preston reported that six bids were also received for the Whitewater Canyon timber harvest project as part of the Iowa Forest Resiliency Grant Initiative.

- Kendrick Forest Products for \$150,000.00
- Dan Jones Logging, Inc. for \$132,110.00
- J. Kubitz Logging, Inc. for \$129,261.00
- Brian Steines Logging for \$105,350.00
- Custom Tree Care for \$44,780.96
- B & R Logging for \$138,200.00

Motion to approve Kendrick Forest Products for \$150,000.00 for timber harvest at Whitewater Canyon was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Callahan. Motion carried 5-0.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR WASHINGTON MILLS BRIDGE REPAIR:

Preston presented a proposal from Endeavor Civil Engineering for inspection, survey, and repair design services for the Washington Mills Bridge located at Bowstring Wildlife Area.

The bridge is currently closed to traffic and is listed on the National Register of Historic Bridges.

Proposal amount: \$17,000.00

Preston recommended approval to allow the department to pursue future repair funding opportunities. Motion to approve the professional service agreement with Endeavor Civil Engineering for the Washington Mills Bridge repair was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Callahan. Motion carried 5-0.

PERMISSION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR FENCE REPLACEMENT AT WHITEWATER CANYON WILDLIFE AREA:

Replacement of deteriorating fencing along the north side of Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area. Preston requested authorization to solicit bids for labor and materials.

Motion to solicit bids for fence replacement at Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area was made by Callahan and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW WINE PARK HMA SURFACING PROJECT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FINAL:

Change order No. 1 and Final for the New Wine Park hot mix asphalt (HMA) surfacing project. The change totaled \$5,001.95 and addressed:

- Excavation and repair of a soft spot beneath the parking lot
- Additional rock material
- Additional leveling course work
- Original contract amount: \$126,912.45

Motion to approve New Wine Park HMA surfacing project change order No. 1 final was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Conforti. Motion carried 5-0.

HERITAGE TRAIL PAVING PROJECT AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT:

The amendment included an additional \$5,000.00 for engineering calculations and cost comparisons between Portland cement concrete and hot mix asphalt. Discussion included trail length possibilities, cost, future maintenance, shoulder materials and coordination with the City of Dyersville. Motion to approve Heritage Trail paving project amendment NO. 1 to professional services agreement was made by Callahan and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried.

A special meeting will be scheduled to discuss paving materials and implications.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

STAFF REPORTS:

Staff members provided updates on various projects and activities.

DIRECTOR REPORT: Preston reported:

- Staff completion of OSHA 10-hour safety training
- Spring firearms qualification and law enforcement training updates
- Finley's Landing paving project scheduled to begin June 8
- Installation of new park entrance signs
- Trail crew hiring and June 8 start date
- Culvert failure discovered at New Wine Park entrance requiring replacement
- Upcoming conceptual planning meeting for Locher Lake Recreation Area
- Update on Martin and staff support efforts at Fillmore Golf Course
- Upcoming golf benefit fundraiser for Martin on July 3
- Golf course generated approximately \$9,000.00 in green fees the previous week.
- Friends fundraising golf event scheduled for September 20th at Fillmore

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT: Sisler reported:

- Swiss Valley Campground Electrical upgrade is complete.
- Prairie burns completed
- Dock and logjam repairs completed at Massey Marina
- Heritage Trail graded and trail sides mowed
- Bridge protectors removed and stored for summer season
- Grave; washouts repaired at; Whitewater canyon, Indian Mounds and Swiss Valley Nature Center
- Playground surfacing tilled and leveled
- Mud cleared from John Deere West Trail
- Food plots planted throughout county areas
- Continued mowing, patrols, training and storm cleanup completed

NATURALIST REPORT: Denlinger reported:

Program statistics for April:

- 50 programs, 1741 participants
- Programs included: 4th Grade and Kindergarten Outdoor Adventures, service days, field trips, Teens take CAARE – bat house project, Earth Day, trail camera project and birding at the Boys & Girls Club.
- Upcoming programs: School Field Trips, summer camps and programs, Mowing to Monarchs at local schools, fungi hike, Sunnycrest seed harvest, history on the mound and multilingual Nature Night Program.

No formal action was taken; reports were informational.

OLD BUSINESS:

- DRA grant application submitted for Locher Lake Recreation Area.
 - \$50,000 request for fishing dock and pavilion.
- Boundary signage being ordered for Locher Lake Recreation Area.
- Ribbon cutting/dedication tentatively planned for August.
- Water Recreation Access Grant application in progress.
- Potential boat launch and kayak access included.
- Board complimented recent park signage improvements.
- Discussion held regarding interpretive signage at Bowstring Bridge.
- Positive feedback provided for Mowing to Monarchs program.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion to approve the May 2026 payables and April 2026 Procurement Cards was made by Pfeiler and seconded by Callahan. Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May 26, 2026. At 9:00 A.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd. Peosta, Iowa 52068.

Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 4:00 P.M., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Rd. Peosta, Iowa 52068.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Callahan and seconded by Pfeiler. Motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:04 P.M.



DUBUQUE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER



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