

Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018

Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji

Chair: Willia Mueske

Vice chair: Eric Stoll

Board members: Steve Anderson, Kathy Kleen, Joan Gronstal arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Call to order at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda approval: Kleen motion, Anderson second. Approved.

Approval of past month's minutes: Stoll motion, Kleen second. Approved.

CFDC minutes: The meeting was postponed until Monday, Sept. 17.

Environmental education update: The Bee & Butterfly Festival had more than 900 people. A list of suggestions/comments is being taken from visitors and volunteers as they come up. About 280 butterflies were tagged in two tents. More butterflies could be tagged next year with the two-tent system. Anderson said maybe we could try making cotton candy out of honey.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-Land scoring/acquisition: Sorenson narrowed the land acquisition scoring list down to seven questions with scoring either 0 or 1. That will rank land acquisitions 1-7 of low to high importance. Board members would score the acquisition and the total would be divided among the number of board members to get a final score. Gronstal motion, Anderson second. Anderson said "proximity to existing wildlife management areas..." is subjective. Kleen said after it has been utilized, perhaps that could be brought into the discussion. Approved.

-Non-toxic shot: At the IACCB directors meeting, the topic of installing rules for non-toxic shot has been brought up with many conservation boards. Most directors don't want to get involved with making rules disallowing lead shot on county lands. Only one county – Story County – is going forth with completely getting rid of lead shot. This initiative started with SOAR. Anderson said it makes sense but not without the ability to find alternatives and without a transition period.

Operations and facility update

-Recycle center: TV recycling prices have gone up yet again. Manager Charles Vigdal is looking at different pricing to help cover the costs. The recycling center is now losing money on every TV recycled. The cost decision is up to the Dickinson County Landfill Commission. Jordan said raising prices then brings into the question of whether people will decide to toss TVs into ditches or other places rather

than recycle them if they cost is too much. Chipping is continuing as well. Jordan said some places are looking for wood chunks that help stabilize wet driveways and perhaps that could be an outlet for some of the green waste at the recycling center. Compost is almost out, so sifting will continue with dry weather.

-Horseshoe Bend shop: The project is 34 percent complete, and Quail Construction is estimating the building will be up by late fall with good weather.

-County home update: Several contractors and plans have been evaluated, and Sorenson requested an architect come take a look. The architect recommended taking the building down and beginning with a conceptual drawing and then presenting that to the potential donor instead of continuing forward with a lack of focus. The conceptual drawing would be about \$3,500, and the Okoboji Foundation awarded the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County a \$75,000 grant for the project. A donor has verbally committed \$500,000 to the project. If the building will be taken down, utilities can be cut off for now to save money in the interim.

-LRTF resolution: A grant for the new spray truck was approved for \$10,000 with the Living Roadway Trust Fund. This agreement states that the monies will be utilized for the spray truck. Anderson motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

-OSHA visits: An employee had an ATV accident this summer, and OSHA employees visited at the end of August and went to Horseshoe Bend, where the accident had taken place. Paperwork was requested and due within four hours of the OSHA visits. No report has been submitted by OSHA since that meeting.

Approval of expenses: Anderson motion, Kleen second. Approved.

General discussion

-REAP grant review is Sept. 19 in Des Moines, and Roth will attend as the county representative.

-Sorenson, Mueske and Anderson will be at the IACCB board member conference Sept. 19-21 in Des Moines.

-Sorenson, Roth and CFDC president Becky Peters met with a company that makes interactive donor boards that would give more information about donors to the nature center and Pollinator Paradise.

-Sorenson proposed giving Delores Maser recognition for her major contributions to the Bee & Butterfly Festival as well as to Pollinator Paradise by naming the Bee & Butterfly Festival after her --- Maser Bee & Butterfly Festival, Dee's Bee & Butterfly Festival or something similar. The 2019 festival would also have a special recognition ceremony for Delores. Anderson suggested making a decision by October to submit it with the 2019 events in Vacation Okoboji.

-Barbara Tagami and Penny Wilson have been working on member relations for the CFDC.

-The DNR has approached Sorenson with an opportunity to own and manage a new drainage district on Lower Gar Recreation Area.

-Every county in the state does an unmet needs list to promote I-WILL to the Legislature, and Dickinson County's unmet needs is more than \$22 million, including future trails needs. Kleen asked Sorenson to send the board members the list.

-The conservation board is working with the state historical society to revamp the Abbie Gardner Cabin over the winter.

-Stoll said the revenue stream from the tubing hill in Sioux City was successful. Anderson said he saw a place that had a tubing hill in the winter and an astroturf cover that allowed the same tubing in the summer.

Kleen motion to adjourn, Gronstal second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:17 p.m.