

Dickinson County Conservation Board

22785 Nature Center Road, Okoboji

7 p.m. Oct. 16, 2018

Chair: Willia Mueske

Board members: Steve Anderson, Joan Gronstal, Kathy Kleen – leave at 8:01 p.m.

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Call to order at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda approval: Gronstal motion, Anderson second. Approved.

Past month's minutes: Kleen motion to approve, Anderson second. Approved.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County: A membership party is set for June 14 with appetizers and drinks for adults and kids as well as a raptor program. An interactive donor recognition station was approved but is on hold. They are looking at doing fundraisers and are still working through ideas.

Environmental education update: The Family Glow Walk had a great turnout at more than 180 participants. The numbers for the year are on average for the past few years. Plans are getting ready for the 2019 calendar.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-Francis Sites maintenance agreement: Following the September special meeting regarding this issue, the cities of Okoboji and Spirit Lake want to do maintenance on their LID (low impact development) project. Jordan said this could be a county-wide project to take of these areas.

Anderson will work on the project agreement and present ideas to the board at the next meeting at the request of Mardi Allen, member of the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors.

-Kraninger-Clark-Saddle Club land: The grant request for approximately \$183,000 has been approved. The purchase of the land connecting to the Little Foote Forest from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation should still go through this year if possible.

-White Cap LLC discussion: Owners of the former Inn at Okoboji property have approached the Dickinson County Conservation Board about possibly taking over the 72-acre park area with \$13.2 million of improvements and a maintenance endowment. The board agrees to move forward with the proposed project.

Operation and facility update

-Recycle center: The brush pile is full after the storm last month. Shine Bros. still has not been able to get the white goods, so the pile is getting large.

-Equipment, operation and training policy: The ATV accident this summer was inspected by OSHA and wrote two citations, one for \$0 and one for approximately \$6,700. The safety coordinator and

Sorenson put a policy together and will show that training has occurred to hopefully abate the fine. A meeting requesting abatement has been set with OSHA. There must be a classroom and hands-on training for each person to drive each vehicle, and each staff member will have to sign a document confirming training. Anderson motion to approve. Gronstal second. Approved.

-Annual conference: Sorenson, Anderson and Mueske all attended the ICCS board member conference. Topics included monarch butterflies, bonding for conservation projects, how to prepare sites for construction, utilizing ag practices for improved outcomes, a future water trail down the Des Moines River and more. Mueske toured the new Jester Park Nature Center and park.

-Clothing allowance: There has been a \$200 clothing allowance and a \$75 boot allowance. Sorenson would like to make a flat dollar amount of \$300 per year for wardrobe. Anderson motion for \$400 per year, Gronstal second. Approved.

-Pollinator Paradise exhibits update: Staff are working with exhibit designers on the exhibit details.

-Horseshoe Bend shop: Construction was supposed to start Oct. 15, but workers were not on site when Sorenson went. Flood insurance claims were submitted for damaged materials. Hopefully the shop will be up within a month of construction.

-County Home update: An open-closed shelter design has been put together and will be presented to the donor. Mueske does not think the catering kitchen in the design is big enough. The demolition will be approximately \$100,000.

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

General discussion:

-Jordan asked about maintenance, rate charges, tables and chairs for the former County Home.

-Sorenson is evaluating the roadside program. The vegetation specialist has been asked to take over brush cutting and is looking at separating maintenance duties more.

-Mueske asked about what trail maintenance includes. Spraying for weeds in the trail is done when requested. Crack sealing is contracted out through Dickinson County Trails.

Anderson motion to adjourn. Gronstal second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:47 p.m.