

Dickinson County Conservation Board

22785 Nature Center Road, Okoboji

7 p.m. Nov. 13, 2018

Chair: Willia Mueske

Vice chair: Eric Stoll

Board members: Steve Anderson, Kathy Kleen

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan, arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Call to order at 6:59 p.m.

Agenda approval: Kleen motion, Anderson second. Approved.

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

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: Skip Perkins was approved as a new board member. JoAnne Sackett resigned from the board. The full Kraemer + Design exhibit contract for Pollinator Paradise was approved for \$600,000 with an anticipated completion of November 2019. New shirts designs and a new membership card design were approved. The annual potluck will be at the Dec. 10 board meeting.

Environmental education update: Howlin' Halloween drew in more than 60 people. Kleen asked about Harris-Lake Park and Graettinger-Terril Elementary and if we were getting into those schools because programs seem to be concentrated heavily on Spirit Lake and Okoboji.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-Francis Sites maintenance agreement: A special meeting was held previously about the conservation board taking over maintenance of low impact development sites. Anderson said he would not like to see the conservation board locked into an agreement in perpetuity in case of staff changes in the future, so a clause was put in to give the conservation board an out in the future if needed. The agreement also mentions that conservation board staff will report issues but will not be fiscally responsible. Sorenson thinks it will be best to expand the IRVM program to two full-time people and include the LID projects under that umbrella.

Kleen motion to approve the 28E Francis Sites Agreement between the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors and Dickinson County Conservation Board, Anderson second. Approved.

-Reeds Run purchase update: A title opinion is needed for reimbursement for the land purchase for the approved Resource Enhancement and Protection grant. Anderson motion to find outside counsel to get the title opinion done so the grant can be reimbursed, Kleen second. Approved.

-Ainsworth-Orleans Beach history: Sorenson has been going through the history of different county parks and areas. The Dickinson County Conservation Board began in 1968 and a survey found that a priority of the area was to have lifeguards at public beaches, so the board became interesting in

maintaining what is now Ainsworth-Orleans Beach in partnership with the State Conservation Commission, now the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. It was originally called Minnewaukon Beach. It was renamed in 1976 in honor of long-time Orleans resident and city clerk Peter McCormack Ainsworth. Also honored was the late Peter David Ainsworth, with three benches dedicated in his memory, which are still at the site. A shelter house was constructed in 2014 in honor of Bob and Dee Olson, with funds donated for the project. A playground was constructed in 2015 thanks to fundraising. A new bathroom was constructed in 2017.

Operations and facilities update

-Recycling center: Kolbeck has been chipping the brush pile. Larger chips may be made for the Dickinson County Landfill Commission to drive on. Manager Charles Vigdal is working out a new fee structure for recycling electronics because prices to dispose of the electronics has raised so the recycling center is no longer even breaking even. Shine Bros. of Spencer came to get approximately 3,500 demanufactured appliances. The sifted compost has also been purchased for a project.

-Training update: OSHA's fine has been paid and the staff went through a heavy equipment training session.

-Exhibits for Pollinator Paradise: The staff have been meeting weekly with the exhibit design company to narrow down all of the schematics and pieces.

-Horseshoe Bend shop: The area has been tiled to prevent further water issues. Insurance is fighting against reimbursement for water-damaged supplies approximating \$25,000. Sorenson has also looked into reimbursement from FEMA.

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

General discussion

-Jordan came from a Board of Health meeting addressing the UNI project about lessening pesticide spraying in public areas. The conservation board has been working with the statewide program.

-Maintenance and custodial man Clark Reekers has sold his company and will be retiring in December.

Adjournment: Motion by Anderson, Kleen second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:11 p.m.