

Dickinson County Conservation Board

22785 Nature Center Road, Okoboji

7 p.m. Dec. 11, 2018

Vice chair: Eric Stoll

Board members: Joan Gronstal, Kathy Kleen

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

Agenda approval: Gronstal motion, Kleen second. Approved.

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

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County minutes: Meeting going on at the same time as the board meeting.

Environmental education update: Naturalist Ashley Hansen and environmental education coordinator Bryanna Kuhlman have registered for the NAI conference and are applying for grants.

Operations and facilities update:

-Budget 2019

-Francis Sites: The agreement for maintenance between the conservation board and board of supervisors has not been finalized yet. Once the agreement is reformatted, it should be approved.

-IRVM future: The program was established three years ago but is not producing what was originally desired. Options are to discontinue the program, turn it back over to the engineer's office or push harder to get desired results. The person who used to work on roadsides split the county into an area west of Highway 71 and an area east of Highway 71, and one crew would work each half of the county.

Sorenson's recommendation is to hire two full-time positions, one which is the current IRVM position, to work each half of the county as well as four seasonal positions. One of the managers would then take on responsibility of the weed commissioner, and the other manager would take over low impact development project maintenance. Reseeding 3 percent of each half of the county makes it a 25-year plan to reseed all of the county rights-of-way. There must be two people at a time to spray.

Another full-time person would then be hired to help with county parks/area maintenance.

-Projects (HSB bridge/NC parking): The road bridge project on 195th Avenue in Milford has been delayed, and the conservation board was planning on redoing the walking bridge in the

Horseshoe Bend park at the same time to bundle the projects and cut costs. Sorenson plans to delay the bridge project until the road project moves forward. The anticipated project date is now 2021.

Sorenson has also looked at how to pave the nature center parking lot at least partially as well as look into low impact development. The plan is to pour concrete on the main portion, because pervious pavers cannot be plowed.

-Dickinson Recycling Center: The scrap metal was recycled at Shine Bros. in Spencer. A new wood chipping business is starting in the area and will be meeting with the recycling center manager. Electronic pricing is increasing as of Jan. 1, 2019, to break even as recycling prices have gone up. The county tax assessment has increased \$1 per household to \$7 per household.

-County Home progress: Bids for demolition of the county home have been received at by the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County and have ranged from \$93,000 to \$150,000.

-Horseshoe Bend shop: The roof was completed before the December snowstorm and interior construction is being worked on. The project is 68 percent done.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-Reeds Run: The project has to be closed by the end of the year, and the final documentation is being finished. The reimbursement request has been submitted.

-Little Foote Forest addition: The REAP grant has been approved, and a budget amendment will need to be approved by the board of supervisors to purchase the new areas from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

-Bike experience: A proposed future park has a mountain biking area in the plans, and Sorenson has been researching if it would be a good fit with the conservation board's mission. Gronstal said her family and their friends utilize areas such as this in Iowa and Wisconsin.

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

General discussion:

-Jordan asked if the parks had a no-smoking policy. Rebecca Peters, CFDC president, is part of a healthy hometowns initiative that has funding for signage, but Sorenson said it has not been an issue in county parks.

Kleen motion to adjourn, Gronstal second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:08 p.m.