

**Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting**

**22785 Nature Center Road, Okoboji**

**7 p.m. Jan. 8, 2019**

**Chair: Willia Mueske – Eric Stoll**

**Vice chair: Eric Stoll – Steve Anderson**

**Board members: Steve Anderson, Kathy Kleen, Joan Gronstal via phone**

**Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth**

**Board liaison: Pam Jordan via phone**

**Call to order at 7:02 p.m.**

**Agenda approval:** Anderson motion, Kleen second. Approved.

**Election of officers:** Gronstal nominate Stoll for chair and Anderson for vice chair, Kleen second. Approved. Transfer of chair duties to Stoll at 7:04 p.m.

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

**Environmental education report:** Programs slowed down. Curriculum planning is underway, and the 2019 schedule has been released.

**Operations and facility update:**

**-Budget amendment 2018-19:** Budget amendments will be submitted to cover the Horseshoe Bend shop expenses, as it is behind schedule and overflowing into this fiscal year more than anticipated. Another amendment will cover the acquisition of the Little Foote Forest addition, but a REAP grant was awarded toward this project. The waste management fund will also need a budget amendment to cover the cost of chipping green waste.

Mueske motion to accept the proposed budget amendment, Anderson second. Approved.

**-Budget 2019:** Sorenson presented the revenue that comes in as well as the anticipated expenses for 2019-20.

**-Director's salary:** Anderson motion to approve 3 percent salary increase for Sorenson and support of recommended staff salary increases, Mueske second. Approved.

**-New staffing positions:** As discussed in the December meeting, the proposal is to remove one part-time staff person and add two full-time staff people --- one in the IRVM program and one as a natural resource tech. Additional seasonal positions would also be added to the IRVM program and at the nature center.

Mueske motion to approve additional full-time positions as well as the 2019-20 proposed budget, Kleen second. Approved.

Sorenson's budget meeting will be 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, with the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors.

**-Recycle center:** Electronics will be recycled in January. Prices for electronics recycling at the RCC have increased as of Jan. 1.

**Dickinson County Conservation Board areas**

**-County Home progress:** The Okoboji Foundation has approved using the awarded grant for demolition instead of renovation of the current building. Other issues have been encountered in preparation for demolition by Cohrs Construction. Demolition is scheduled for January and should only take about a week to complete.

**Approval of expenses:** Anderson motion, Mueske second. Approved.

**General discussion:**

-Sorenson asked if any board members would like to go to the spring ICCS board member conference Sept. 2019. Anderson and Stoll said they would like to go.

-Board members reevaluated the regular meeting time. It was decided to meet 5 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month.

-Sorenson and Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County president Rebecca Peters met with Northwest Wealth Management to talk about a possible future endowment being donated.

-Anderson suggested looking for new legal representation for the conservation board outside of the county attorneys. The conservation board does have autonomy to hire its own attorneys.

**Adjournment: Motion by Anderson, second by Mueske. Approved. Adjourn at 8:56 p.m.**