

Dickinson County Conservation Board

7 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji, IA

Chair: Eric Stoll

Vice chair: Steve Anderson arrived 6 p.m.

Board members: Kathy Kleen, Willia Mueske, Joan Gronstal (via phone)

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Public: Kae Hoppe

Call to order 5:04 p.m.

Agenda approval: Mueske motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

Approval of past month's minutes: Clarifications made to "recycling center" section to say "approved by Dickinson County Landfill Commission" and "per household." Kleen motion to approve as amended, Mueske second. Approved.

Kleen motion to approve supplemental meeting minutes, Gronstal second. Approved.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County minutes: Camp funds are being reimbursed to the conservation board since it goes through the CFDC PayPal but the environmental education staff is putting on the programs, so money is now going to the conservation board.

Environmental education report: The staff left the annual Winterfest conference early due to bad weather. The move to Iowa City was well received.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-Brooks Golf Course: Rick Carlton is working on a management agreement to continue to run Brooks Golf Club for the remainder of 2019 while the conservation board works to finalize future plans. Sorenson made the agreement using a similar agreement that Polk County Conservation uses to lease its golf course and is having an attorney out of Des Moines look over it prior to signing.

An additional meeting will be needed to approve the final copy of the agreement.

-Okoboji Foundation wetland: The Okoboji Foundation owns the "moose wetland" along Highway 71 just east of Kenue Park. The foundation wanted to sell the land to the conservation board for \$75,000. Sorenson recommended not purchasing the land for that amount but accepting the land if it was gifted to the conservation board or if the foundation would sell for \$15,000, which is what the land is assessed at. Mueske said she would not agree to \$75,000. "That's a gouge." Board member Steve Anderson, not present at the time of discussion, said there would be no sewer available there. Gronstal said an easement would have to be agreed upon over the paved spine trail segment as well.

-Little Sioux Savanna agreement: This agreement is for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to do planting at the Little Sioux Savanna. This would cover all seed and fencing. Sorenson said he is a little hesitant at the change in staff responsibilities, because vegetation specialist Aric Ping set up this plan but would not oversee it under the new job duties set up. Sorenson recommended Ping would continue to see this plan through, even with the changes.

Kleen motion to approve the USFWS planting agreement, Gronstal second. Approved. Sorenson noted the address needs to be changed on the agreement.

-Judd Wildlife Area USFWS agreement: Lakeside Lab has agreed to do water testing on this property during this project. DCCB would supply the labor for the project, and the USFWS will supply the funding for materials. A separate agreement will have to be made with the cattle owner, and bids will be accepted from owners.

Mueske motion to approve the USFWS grazing agreement, Kleen motion. Approved.

-IDNR water access agreement: A water access grant was submitted for renovations and updates to the boat ramp and dock at Ainsworth-Orleans Beach. The SLPA has committed \$10,000 to the project as well. This agreement is to accept the grant for the project for fall 2019.

Gronstal motion to approve the water access grant agreement, Mueske second. Approved.

-Sherwood Foundation revised agreement: At the February meeting, an agreement was approved with the Sherwood Foundation for \$3 million to be donated to the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County, but an \$80,000 down payment was already put on the property, so the total donation is technically \$3,080,000. The conservation board is the final owner, so it was also a part of the amended agreement.

Mueske motion to accept the amendment to the grant agreement, Gronstal second. Approved.

Operations and facility update

-Recycling center: All appliances currently at the site are demanufactured. The wood chipping company is also on site working on chipping the brush pile. Sorenson said about \$50,000 worth of chipping is probably left for FY19.

-Fire Memorandum of Understanding: The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Buena Vista County Conservation Board, Clay County Conservation Board, Dickinson County Conservation Board and Iowa Department of Natural Resources would all be able to help each other with prairie burning, as long as the burn boss --- lead organization --- is the one lighting the fire.

Sorenson said it is a good idea, but he does not think it will work logistically because most parties will want to be burning at the same time. "It's good to have it in place ahead of time," Jordan said.

Kleen motion to enter into the Fire Management MOU, Mueske second. Approved.

-Horseshoe Bend shop: Construction on the shop is wrapping up. Cabinets are being installed. The tile is running fast as these rains come. Kleen suggested having a board meeting at the shop after it is finished to see the final product.

Approval of expenses: Kleen motion to pay bills, Gronstal second. Approved.

General discussion: No general discussion.

(Back to Dickinson County Conservation Board areas after Anderson arrived at 6 p.m.)

-Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District discussion/action: Anderson, representing Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District, presented sewer connection options that have been previously discussed. The preferred option to connect through Brooks Golf Club, and the second option would be to connect through the Kenue Park prairie. The IGLSD needs the conservation board to approve an option so that its engineers can continue planning.

Kleen asked about then connecting sewer to the nature center. The IGLSD is going to discuss connecting everyone along Nature Center Road to the new sewer line with the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors.

Mueske motion to accept the proposal from the IGLSD that will route the new sewer line through Brooks Golf Club, Kleen second. Approved, with Anderson abstaining.

Adjournment: Motion by Kleen, Mueske second. Approved. Adjourn at 6:24 p.m.