

**Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting minutes**

**22785 Nature Center Road, Okoboji**

**5 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, 2019**

**Chair: Eric Stoll**

**Vice chair: Steve Anderson, via phone, at 5:05 p.m.**

**Board members: Kathy Kleen, Willia Mueske, Joan Gronstal**

**Employees: Kiley Roth**

**Board liaison: Steve Clark**

**Call to order at 5:02 p.m.**

**Approve agenda:** Mueske motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

**Consent agenda items:** Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

**-Approval of agenda**

**-Approval of past month's minutes**

**-Recycling center report**

**-Environmental education report**

**-Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County minutes**

**Dickinson County Conservation Board areas**

**-Brooks Golf Course public meeting/survey:** Public meeting will be held 6 p.m. June 19 in Pollinator Paradise. No decisions will be made at the public meeting but hopefully will be made at the July board meeting in case an RFP needs to be sent out.

Stoll suggested posting an agenda since at least three board members will be at the meeting together.

**-Abbie Gardner agreement 2019:** This is the annual agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa to staff the Abbie Gardner Cabin and Museum in Arnolds Park. The docents received a \$0.25 raise this year, after not having a raise in 2018. Kleen motion to approve agreement with wage increase, Mueske second. Approved.

**-Horseshoe Bend bridge:** An inspection report for the walking bridge said it must be closed for safety concerns due to damage from the spring floods. It has been declared to FEMA for some disaster funds. A snow fence has been placed on each side to block it off.

Stoll and Mueske asked about funds for the bridge project coming up. A CD has been established with the CFDC with some funds to go toward the project next year, and there will also be cost savings as this project is being done at the same time as the road bridge project that the engineer's office is doing.

### **Operations and facility update**

**-Staffing update:** As of July 1, previously discussed staffing changes will take place. Aric Ping will become IRVM Manager West and Brian Cuperus will become Natural Resource Manager. Ping will be dedicated to Dickinson County rights of way and Cuperus will be dedicated to Dickinson County Conservation properties.

Doug Todey has accepted the IRVM East full-time position and will become full-time as of July 1.

A natural resource technician opening has been posted to [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com), and Sorenson will review the resumes as soon as he returns from vacation.

**-Lodge update:** The floorplan was changed so that the bathrooms were not right inside the entryway, and Poppema-Sikma is waiting on a final bid from the electrician before submitting its final bid. Sorenson said in a note that he would recommend that the garages be cleaned out and demolished and some leveling and landscaping done in the area to help with drainage and aesthetics. A grant request was submitted to the AWC Family Foundation for demolition, a driveway and landscaping, but it was tabled until after a site visit later this summer. The board agreed that the garages should be taken down nonetheless.

**-ICCS fall conference:** Anderson plans to attend the fall board member conference, and he and Sorenson will be registered. That payment will be added to the monthly expenses to approve. Stoll is still deciding if he will be able to attend.

**Approval of expenses:** \$500 for ICCS conference was added, bringing the total to \$4,818.97 for the credit cards.

An inflatable bouncy house will be purchased for the Bee & Butterfly Festival, and Mueske suggested looking into insurance for the inflatable and if that would cost extra.

Mueske motion to approve bills, Gronstal second. Approved.

### **General discussion**

-Stoll asked about updates regarding the Brooks Golf car that has not been returned.

-Gronstal asked about a section of grass along 253<sup>rd</sup> Avenue that has been killed to see if we are turning it to prairie. Roth did not have an answer about that property, she will check with maintenance staff.

-Mueske brought up the Brooks Golf Course input. The stretch of property along Highway 71 has not been mowed, and the City of Okoboji responded that the owner did not realize that the golf course would not be maintaining that property this year.

Mueske said if it stays a golf course, then the board must look at if it would pay. Anderson said his proposal would be to sell everything that the conservation board does not need.

**Adjournment, Gronstal motion, Kleen second. Approved. Adjourn at 5:47 p.m.**