

**Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting
5 p.m. March 11, 2020
Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji**

Chair: Steve Anderson, arrive at 5:13 p.m.

Vice chair: Willia Mueske

Board members: Kathy Kleen, Joan Gronstal via phone

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaisons: Pam Jordan, Steve Clark

Call to order by Mueske at 5:08 p.m., prior to Anderson's arrival.

Agenda approval: Gronstal motion, Kleen second. Approved.

Public comment: No public present

Consent agenda/items

- a. Approval of past month's minutes
- b. Recycle report
- c. Environmental education report

Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

a. Horseshoe Bend Mussel Project: Two bidders decided to work together to send in a bid for \$48,410. The grant monies set aside for this project is only \$20,000. B&S Tiling & Excavation of Lake City submitted for \$17,886.50 and will be awarded the project. Sorenson is waiting on an agreement from for the project that will then be presented to the board to approve.

DCCB cost-shared the project by providing staff hours to cut down trees on the shoreline.

Operations and facility update

- a. Lodge fees: After researching other venues' fees, staff proposed the following fees:

High season (May-September)

Saturday: \$1,000; Friday: \$850; Sunday: \$600

Off season (October-April)

Saturday: \$750; Friday: \$500; Sunday: \$350

Weekdays (8 a.m.-4 p.m., evening hours address as needed)

\$100 per day

Damage deposit/cleaning fee: \$350

The lodge will be available one year in advance of the rental date, and the shelter --- if not reserved with the lodge --- will be available for \$60 one month in advance. This does not include black-

out dates. Contract details are still being worked out, as is the registration form on the website. Opening date has been slated for Oct. 1.

Kleen motion to approve proposed rates, Mueske second. Approved.

b. Staffing update: Aric Ping has resigned and Doug Todey has filled that position as of March 30. It will be requested of the board of supervisors to appoint Todey as the new weed commissioner as well, taking Ping's place. The IRVM East position is open for applications until March 20.

Almost all seasonal positions have been filled, except for the nature center assistant.

c. Nature center parking lot underground electrical: Before the parking lot is paved, as scheduled, Sorenson wants to run the underground electrical as previously discussed. Jordan asked about lighting for the nature center and lodge parking lots, and Sorenson has a surveyor coming to look into such planning.

One-third of the parking lot pavement is budgeted for FY20, and another third is budgeted for FY21. However, Sorenson may propose the FY21 budget be used for the lodge parking lot instead.

d. Brooks restaurant siding repair: Brooks Golf manager Bret Hetland requested the siding be repaired on the restaurant for approximately \$9,000. The contract says structural repairs are the responsibility of DCCB, and Sorenson asked an attorney if siding is considered a structural repair or if it would be the responsibility of Brooks Management. Sorenson said if it isn't taken care of, it will become a structural problem if it isn't already. He thinks that Brooks Management should be told that DCCB doesn't contractually have to repair the siding but will do it to prevent future structural damage.

Mueske motion to pay for new siding on three walls, not to exceed \$9,000. Kleen second. Approved.

Approval of expenses: Mueske motion to approve, Kleen second. Approved.

General discussion

-DCCB won Outstanding Website in a rural area through the Iowa Tourism Association at the Iowa Tourism Conference.

-A survey will be done on the Mike Clark land to delineate the road ownership line.

-Engineering will need to be done on the Spirit Lake boat ramp project at Ainsworth-Orleans Beach.

-The grazing program at Judd Wildlife Area is moving forward, and the neighbor will be the one renting the ground for grazing.

-Sherwood Forest, the former Inn at Okoboji property, is moving forward. Sorenson expects an agreement to come to the DCCB by the April board meeting. The organization has requested that Sorenson be in charge of the development of the park.

-A discussion about how to address Epi Pens and summer camp has come up, whether the DCCB can take on liability of holding Epi Pens for allergies.

-A new policy will be put into place regarding no food in the nature center, due to issues with food in exhibits.

-Anderson updated about the sanitary sewer project, as head of the sanitary sewer district. An issue by AmericInn caused a repipe, including a repipe of the pipe for Brooks Golf that had been previously discussed that was not buried at the right depth. DCCB will no longer have to pay for that project.

Anderson said the sanitary district will also be paying Brooks Golf to repair parts of the golf course that were damaged during the sewer project through the course.

The sewer project along Nature Center Road has begun by Lakeshore Drive.

Adjournment: Mueske motion, Gronstal second. Approved. Adjourn at 6:27 p.m.