

Dickinson County Conservation Board (DCCB)  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 13, 2013  
Dickinson County Nature Center

Presiding Chair: Steve Anderson

Members Present: Joan Gronstal, Eric Stoll, Kathy Kleen

Members Absent: Willia Mueska

Employees Present: Lee Sorenson, Charles Vigdal, David Booth, Angie Wills

Others Present: Pam Jordan

**Agenda Approval.** Gronstal/Stall made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of a tour of the landscape project and RCC Update. All Ayes, motion carried.

**Approval of the July 9, 2013 Minutes** – Gronstal/Kleen moved to approve the minutes. All ayes, carried

**Executive Director's Comments** – We have incredible staff working for the Dickinson County Conservation Board that is getting things completed and making progress on projects. We are still working on team building but have seen progress over the past month.

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County Update** – Discussed about the landscape project and the length of time it is taking for completion. A letter was written and signed by the Foundation notifying that Oelson Landscape is past the completion date and that liquidated damages may be assessed. The foundation request that the conservation Board would co-sign the letter to be presented to Matt Thelen. Kleen made a motion to authorize Steve Anderson (Chairperson) to sign the letter to Oelson Landscape requested by the Conservation Foundation. Gronstal seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. The foundation is also in the process of updating their bylaws.

**Environmental Education Update** – Charles Vigdal presented the Board with the past months programs for the Naturalist report. There was a total of 21 programs, 416 adults, and 226 kids that attended the programs. Butterfly Festival scheduled for August 31, 2013 from 10 am – 3 pm. Discussed about acquiring a fleet of kayaks and trailer instead of renting them weekly. The IAN will be held at the Nature center on March 12-14.

### **Operations and facility update**

- Dickinson County Nature Center
  - Exterior Landscaping Update
    - The landscape project is behind schedule the water feature is projected to be completed by the end of the week with the entire project completion shooting for end of August.
    - Sign of the road/entry sign for the nature center will be a three sided sign in the shape of a triangle point to the road, this will allow traffic from both direction see the sign. Then on the back of the sign will be a quote from Aldo Leopold that visitors will read when leaving the nature center. The cost estimate for the three signs is \$2000.
- Dickinson County Recycling Center and Green Waste Site – Willis presented spreadsheet with monthly information. Swap grant did not get funded.
- Tractor bids for operations
  - After discussion about three choices of tractors and the estimates. Gronstal made a motion to approve the purchase of the new tractor. Kleen seconded the motion. All aye, motion carried.
- Disc Golf Course - No update

## **Dickinson County Conservation Board Area's**

- Horseshoe Bend County Wildlife Preserve
  - The open shelter has been removed, we have received cost estimates for the water hook up and electrical for the camp ground area, the water came in at \$22,000 and the electric was \$32,000. At this time instead of spending that kind of funds on a small area we are going to get a master plan started for the Horseshoe Bend area for some direction.
- County Farm Buildings Update
  - The chemical building and the corn crib will both be taken down and removed late this fall. We will hold a public meeting for the county barn to allow the public to put in their input on the future of the barn.
- Orleans Beach Update
  - The grant for the new bath house will be applied for again this year out of the fuel tax grant. It was applied for the previous year but did not receive funding.
- Land Acquisitions
  - On the Zimmer land acquisition there is a funding flow issue since two of the payments are reimbursement back to the county after the entire property is purchased and changed Title. Director proposed to pay it out of the current year budget between land acquisition account and the operational budget, a budget amendment will need to be approved to allocate those funds back into those line items to

## **Naming Rights Policy**

- Board discussed a new policy about naming rights, thought it would be appropriate to incorporate that the Conservation Board would follow any rights given by the Iowa National Heritage Foundation on land contracts.

## **Staffing Update**

- Environmental Education Coordinator/Naturalist Position Vacancy
  - Director Sorenson proposed that we change the E.E. Coordinator position to a Naturalist II position. Gronstal/Stoll moved to approve to change the EE Coordinator position to a Naturalist II position. All ayes, carried
- Executive Director's Position
  - Board discussed approving Sorenson as a law enforcement officer for the Dickinson County Conservation Board. Kleen/Gronstal made a motion to approve Sorenson as a peace officer and to revisit this appointment in a year. Resolution 8-13 roll call: Gronstal-yes, Kleen-yes, Stoll-yes, Anderson-yes. Motion carried. Gronstal/Stoll authorized Sorenson to have law enforcement authority only on Dickinson County Conservation Board owned or managed properties.

Approval of August Expenses. Kleen/Gronstal moved to approve August expenses. All ayes, carried.

## **General Discussion**

## **Adjournment**

Stoll/Kleen moved to adjourn at 9:29 P.M. All ayes, carried.