

Dickinson County Conservation Board (DCCB)  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 10, 2013  
Dickinson County Nature Center

Presiding Chair: Steve Anderson

Members Present: Eric Stoll, Willia Mueske, Kathy Kleen

Members Absent: Joan Gronstal

Employees Present: Angie Wills, Karess Knudtson, Lee Sorenson

Others Present:

**Agenda Approval.** Mueske/Kleen made a motion to approve the agenda. All Ayes, motion carried.

**Approval of the past month Minutes** – Kleen/Mueske moved to approve the minutes with correction of Willia Mueske name spelling. All ayes, carried

**Executive Director's Comments** – Karess and Charles are reorganizing of supplies with material for our environmental education. Discussed about barn renovation and if any Board members would know anyone local that would be able to give us some cost estimates for renovation.

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County Update** – Foundation moved to pay an additional \$3000 to Oelson Landscaping from the past bill. The foundation still holding back 5% of the total project which is \$17,000 that will be held until the total project is complete. There in the process of sending their Foundation letter out this month and discussed the future of funding and what expenses should come out of the foundation account. There are doing a murder mystery dinner on February 15, 2014 at \$75 a ticket that will be held at the Nature Center. Lonnie Saunders said the Foote estate money is all cleared and that the check should be written the following week.

**Environmental Education Update** – Charles and Karess has been doing a lot of discussion and brain storming. Also starting the process of cleaning the areas out to know what we have in our inventory. Working on spring, fall and winter scheduling done to get published. Reviewing programs to see what is working and what direction we need to move forward along with discussion and planning of displays of the nature center.

**Operations and facility update**

- Exterior Landscaping Update  
The landscape project will not be completed until spring, the items left to do are the 4 X 4 post on the half amphitheater, lighting for the entrance sig, replacement of two concrete sections that are cracked and the planting of trees.
- Dickinson County Recycling Center and Green Waste Site –  
It continues to de-manufacturer received appliances, will go to winter schedule here the following week. There was no written report on air testing. The hazmat fire suppression system the proof fire was awarded project.
- Nature Center Future Usage Discussion-  
The staff discussed with the Board what is the future plans of the nature center. At this time we are looking at stopping the rentals of the main floor of the nature center to allow more displays. In 2013 the nature center was rented 37 times which only 10 of those were charged rental that brought in revenue of \$1450. Board agreed to stop taking reservations for building rental for 2015 until a plan is in place for the future of the nature center.

- Conservation Connection Update –  
The newsletter is about complete with 6 different organization submitting articles for this newsletter.

#### Budget 2014-2015 Discussion

- Board discussed the process of budget, will need to have a meeting in early January to review the next fiscal year budget.

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

- Zimmer Tract –
  - Dickinson County Conservation is now owners of the Zimmer tract, the paper work for the reimbursement has been mailed in and hopefully over the next few months we will receive those funds and place them back into the operating budget.
- Knudtson Property –
  - The INHF is moving forward with the purchase of the property and Mike and Linda have agreed to the fence negotiations.

**Approval of October Expenses.** Mueske/Stoll moved to approve expenses. All ayes, carried.

#### **General discussion**

- Conservation Board discuss the possibilities of a need assessment for Dickinson County, the Board ask Sorenson to get more information about a need assessment and try to set up some meeting for some strategic planning.
- Sorenson gave an update on the proposed shooting range from Lake Park, at this time I am attempting to try and get them to look at the Spring Run complex as a site instead of designing a new site at a different location.

#### **Adjournment**

Mueske/Stoll moved to adjourn at 8:32 pm. All ayes, carried.