

Dickinson County Conservation Board

7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14

Chairperson: Eric Stoll

Board members: Joan Gronstal, Willia Mueske

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Karess Knudtson, Kiley Roth

Others present: Jane Goeken

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

Agenda approval motion by Willia Mueske, second by Joan Gronstal. Approved.

Approval of minutes motion by Mueske, second by Gronstal. Approved.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: The LaVonne Foote memorial statue is completed outside the nature center. Knudtson updated the board on her ANCA conference in Michigan. SoupFest is cancelled for this year's Winter Games. Another \$37,947.88 Foote estate check was sent to the foundation. A letter was sent to Olson Landscaping that the contract is closed and payment will not be given due to issues with the project. Volunteer newsletter went out to 120 volunteers.

Environmental education update: Knudtson recapped her experience at the Association of Nature Center Administrators conference which drew in people from nature centers across the United States. Some areas have hired outside help to put together an environmental education plan. Knudtson is in the process right now of sending out a questionnaire to teachers and is asking foundation, board, staff and volunteers to have people fill out question forms to see people's needs as she puts together the environmental education plan.

Operations and facility updates

- 1. Needs assessment:** Jane Goeken from Iowa State University Extension was on hand to discuss the results from the needs assessment that took place this summer. Goeken asks board members to write a list of top priorities for the conservation board in the next two years, and she will come back next month to meet with the board and discuss the priority list.
- 2. The November meeting will be moved to Nov. 18 due to Veterans Day the previous week.**
- 3. Recycling center update/scrap policy:** About \$36,000 is still in the waste reduction fund, but the HHM company estimated a \$20,000 cost for disposal. Wood has been chipped, and the larger chunks will be burned come winter. Gronstal motion to adopt the scrap policy, Mueske second. Approved.
- 4. Vehicle replacement strategy:** A 10-year plan for vehicle replacement will not be followed now that the board must replace two vehicles totaled by a summer storm.
- 5. Nature playscape design:** A concept drawing was done in 2011 for the nature playscape but Sorenson is requesting another conceptual drawing that is more up-to-date. Funds will be requested from the Andrea Waitt Foundation.

6. **Abbie Gardner 28E:** The Iowa State Historical Society contacted Ron Walker in Arnolds Park and wants a 28E agreement to staff the Abbie Gardner cabin. They will give the conservation board money to staff it. Sorenson has concerns because the historical society has had trouble staffing it before. Open hours will be discussed.

Dickinson County Conservation Board Areas

1. **Jahn property:** Sorenson was placed on a committee with four people and visited four sites for a shooting range. Sorenson suggested Spring Run's shooting range as a possible location but it was not seen as desirable. Lake Park would like to use the Jahn property owned by the county. A conversation between county, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and other representatives to discuss the desired for-profit shooting range. The Jahn property is a gravel resource and was purchased for that intent.

Approval of September expenses: Also approve \$250 to the INHF, approved joining the Iowa Great Lakes Association for the same amount approved last year up to \$100. Approved paying for two tickets to the Marsh Marigold for Roth and Knudtson on Oct. 16. Mueske motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

Director's review: Stoll went over Sorenson's review and all comments were discussed with the executive director. Thoughts on a raise were tabled until all board members are present.

General discussion: Stoll thanked the board for the memorial plant. There will be an IWILL meeting Oct. 22 at the Dickinson County Expo Center in Spirit Lake. Sorenson is going through county property to see what is owned by each division of the county. Sorenson will meet with supervisor Pam Jordan about East Lake Okoboji plots being given to the conservation board.

Adjournment at 8:49 p.m.