

**Dickinson County Conservation Board**  
**7:00 p.m., November 18, 2014**  
**Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279 170<sup>th</sup> Street, Okoboji, IA**

**President: Eric Stoll**

**Vice president: Willia Mueske**

**Board members: Kathy Kleen, Steve Anderson, Joan Gronstal arrived at 8:39 p.m.**

**Employees: Lee Sorenson, Karess Knudtson, Kiley Roth**

**Others: Jane Goeken, Pam Jordan via phone**

- 1. Call to order at 6:59 p.m.**
- 2. Agenda approval. Motion by Mueske, second by Anderson. Approved.**
- 3. Approval of minutes for October 14, 2014. Motion by Anderson. Second by Mueske. Approved.**
- 4. Conservation Foundation Of Dickinson County update read from meeting minutes.**

- 5. Environmental education update:** Knudtson talked about the survey she has passed out and asked volunteers, staff and board members to get filled out. About 130 have been received so far. A total of 243 adults and 1,029 children were reached with programming in the last month. Pure Fishing is starting a 6-acre prairie area by Hy-Vee in Spirit Lake and will be working with school children to scatter seeds, plant plants and learn “How Your Pizza Gets to the Table.”

Sorenson, Knudtson and Charles Vigdal made the decision to break from Kayak A Wetland and instead hope to use the conservation board’s kayaks for day camps for pre-teens and teens on the Kenue Park wetland mainly. This will be a testing year. Mueske is concerned about a lack of contacts because she has heard such good things about the program. Kleen said other people are launching a kayak effort on their own. Anderson said to let the group know that it can still meet at the nature center to start the weekly kayak events, and staff could send other interested people to that group.

- 6. Operations and facility update**

- a. Needs assessment:** Jane Goeken asked for top items for the next three years from each person.

**Pam Jordan:** IRVM program, closer relationship between DCCB and county engineer, low-impact development, playscape

**Eric Stoll:** Comprehensive plan for Horseshoe Bend, educate the public about our existing facilities, assist trail along Highway 9 to Sibley

**Willia Mueske:** Continue grow public awareness, continue bee and butterfly program, plan for facilities

**Steve Anderson:** IRVM, overnight facilities, expand environmental education

**Kathy Kleen:** Educate about our resources, evaluate facilities to meet future needs, expand horizons with new ways to reach customers

**Karess Knudtson:** Remodel warming house at Horseshoe Bend, implement intergenerational programming at the nature center, work on a plan for the barn and pollinator area

**Lee Sorenson:** Know who we are, improve land management, statewide leader in conservation

**Kiley Roth:** Camping/cabins, expanded programs to different conservation board areas, fill in nature center upstairs

**Top three projects areas were 1. Facilities management, 2. Environmental Education program expansion, 3. (Tie) Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management and Public Awareness**

- b. Recycling center update:** Hours have changed to 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Sawyer Marco and Sorenson will go to an RCC meeting in Des Moines on Thursday, Nov. 20. Half of the appliances have been demanufactured. Dickinson County Landfill Commission will vote next month on whether to raise an assessment from \$2 per year per household. A new tractor is needed as is a bathroom with running water.
- c. Abbie Gardner 28E:** The State Historical Society will hopefully provide the agreement to sign by January. The historical society will fund the salary, the maintenance is through the DNR and the conservation board would staff the center.

- d. Nature center well update:** Well professionals came out to look at the well and said they would not put a pump on the well because of the wood slats. The recommendation is to drill a new well, which could run about \$7,000 including a pump. A well service would also have to fill and cap the well.
- e. Staffing updates:** Jordan and Sorenson talked to Clay County about its roadside management program and discussed whether to change the operations supervisor position into something with vegetation management. The biggest expense would be a truck and sprayer which could run \$60,000. Sorenson thinks the knowledge base is needed in maintenance staff, if there is a roadside aspect with the county secondary roads or not. Karess' job title will switch to Environmental Education Coordinator instead of naturalist 1.
- f. Budget discussion:** Sorenson has not received anything yet on the budget.

**7. Dickinson County Conservation Board Area's**

**a. Spring run shooting:** Sorenson met with I-DNR officials and went out to the site. The DNR plans lead reclamation, berm movement to reduce trap shooting over the wetland, removal of shooting tubes, installation of a shade structure for no cost to the conservation board. The shooting range is owned by the DNR and run by the conservation board.

**b. Orleans bathroom update:** DNR fish biologist Mike Hawkins said a new bathroom facility will be put in at Orleans Beach. The DNR is also looking to place a bridge over the spillway, because the restroom is actually not for the beach but for the boat ramp.

**c. Milford woods update:** No purchase agreement can be found, so a new one was written up, but the dollar amount was incorrect so a new one needs to be written up again.

**8. Approval of October Expenses: Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved.**

**9. Director's Review: Closed session requested at 9:40 p.m. Gronstal motion, Mueske second. Approved.**

**Anderson moved to end closed session at 10 p.m., Gronstal second. Approved.**

**Anderson motion to increase Sorenson's salary by \$5,000, Gronstal second. Approved.**

**10. General Discussion:** FEMA paperwork has gone through. About \$18,000 will be received for tree cleanup along the trails.

**East Okoboji sites** were burned, but it did not go well and needs more work.

**Gull Point Trail:** The conservation board is not taking a stand on the issue.

**Tubing hill:** The anticipated open date is Saturday, Dec. 6, pending snowfall.

**Disaster plan:** The nature center is the secondary plan if something happens to the courthouse.

**11. Adjournment.** Jordan left the conversation at 9:31 p.m. Knudtson and Roth left at 9:40 p.m. when closed session was entered. Gronstal motion to adjourn, Mueske second. Adjourned at 10:05 p.m.