

Dickinson County Conservation Board

Regular meeting minutes

7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15

Presiding chairperson: Eric Stoll

Members present: Willia Mueske, Kathy Kleen

Employees present: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Others present: Nathan Hanson, Wes Schoorman, Karen and Brent LaCour

Call to order at 7:01 p.m. by Eric Stoll.

Motion to approve Mueske/Kleen. Moved downstairs due to 14 people in attendance.

Approve minutes: Mueske/Kleen.

Executive directors: I-Will made it off subcommittee floor and made it to the house. 66-0. 3/8 cents tax. Two years ago public voted for it. If ever an increase, 3/8 comes to conservation efforts. Not expect to get beyond floor.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County: Lee Sorenson/Pam Jordan said Lance Evans --- NW Wealth Management --- discussed endowment fund. The Foundation may put money in several places because over \$400,000 level. More leeway to get more value in bonds, for example. Technical talk, about 45 minutes of meeting. Lance also offered suggestion to not associate with Okoboji Foundation but to go with Des Moines Foundation, which Okoboji Foundation is under anyway. No vote/poll was taken.

Environmental education: Naturalists not in attendance. Earth Day Celebration is Friday, April 18, and hoping for warm temperatures.

Operations and facility update:

-Westport Park: Hog nursery to be placed north of Westport Park. Concerns voiced to Nate Collins. Is there a compromise there? With Lee being new to the area, he doesn't the owners or the land. You guys who are longterm residents can hash it over.

Nate Collins and Eugene Van Stelton owner of property in attendance. 2400 head nursery. Pigs come from weaning. Come in at 10 pounds and leave at 35-40 pounds. The swine 15-55 pounds equal 0.1 animals, because of minimal amount of manure. The DNR sets up regulation based on size. Those are .1 per animal, making it 240 animal units. 500 animal units or less have no setback requirements. There is no requirement for building permits because the site is so small. Talked to Dave Kollasch.

Eric: Will you have to drill a well? Nate: No, going off rural water.

Kathy: What is the waste management plan? Nate: Because of size of building DNR doesn't require waste management plan. Manure would stay on Van Stelton property. Injected in 460 acres of land. Stored in 8-foot basement under the building.

96x98 square foot building. Brought 3D drawing.

Eric: We've got a lot of interest here. Work around table.

Nathan Hanson: Live directly south of Westport Park, share a property line. As far as the park goes, I think it would be a nuisance with odor and airborne particles. Hog confinements on three other sides a mile away. This is half-mile away. I'm not real happy about it as a homeowner being a half-mile away from it, as well as the detriment it would have to the park. Brought aquifer that entails that whole section, which should be the level of the water in the pit. About 8 foot.

Wes Schoorman: Live two miles away. Frequent pit every weekend with family. Had one go up close to house. Winds, we smell it all the time. Been to pit since kid. Nate asked if finishers or nurseries close to place. Those are finishers. His site is 4800. I see the DNR made a loophole for stuff like this to me. They made a loophole like you have 2400 head, although it says 240 units. That 4800 head site, which equals 2400.

Nathan: Talked with Eugene, he said he would have no problem with a hog confinement by his house. I think there's better places to put it.

Brent LaCour: Pollution from the hog farm. I just want everything as it is right now. Live 1 mile west.

Willia: Difference between finishing and weaning. Nate: Grow to 40 pounds and then finish at 300 pounds, putting out larger amount and a lot more odorous manure. I believe that is why the DNR has the standards that they carry. Wouldn't allow to be so close. They set these guidelines according to air emissions to put off. Other nurseries in O'Brien County. W: Once they are a nursery they stay a nursery? -Setup is totally different, low gates and plastic flooring. CFM fans set up in building. I won't say you're not going to move air. You have to have air like we have to. Nursery kept at 75-85 degrees. You're not moving a whole lot of air out of the building, a lot of heating. Have quite a few people building at buildings like these. -A pig in this building needs 3 square feet to live in. Finisher pig needs 7.5 square feet.

Eric: What are energy needs? Single phase. Would have to install power. Line about a half mile. Water and electricity would be out of Collins' pocket. Ends at Hanson's driveway.

Nate Collins takes care of two sites. These would be his sites. Dan Lorch's pigs.

Someone trying to be employed and bring revenue to community. (sitting before Eugene). Hopefully it's two young fellas.

Lee: Our concern is its right across from our park. -Other man: Appreciate that they're splitting this up.

Kathy: Tell about topography of land: Eugene: At most 2 percent grade, pretty flat. All agriculture. Corn and soybeans. Eric: Will you spread manure on soybean crop? Eugene: Would want to spread in fall. Knife in. Injected into the ground and covered.

Lee: Is there somewhere to move this facility to get it so its not across the street from Westport Park? Would any of you be interested in taking the location away so its not right across the road?

Karen LaCour: Live west of area. Not against hog confinements. It's just location. Same concerns. Other questions: No set back rules because of size. How far do you plan on setting it back from A34 and 110<sup>th</sup>, roughly 200 feet from center of road. 130 from edge of gravel. Official survey. I drive that road every day. I turn that road every day. Nate works in Melvin and lives in Milford. Do chores on the way to work and way home. Will have feed trucks going to these buildings and pigs moving, drift would have to open up before 7 a.m. Often beat plows out. Talked to Dan Eckard, county engineer, driveway on east side would have to get wind out of east for barn to affect it.

---Why these areas? Talked to different landowners. Met with Van Stelton and they were interested in the project. The manure never leaves the property which is a big deal. Their irrigator pivots off center of that section. The irrigator doesn't touch corners, so his building doesn't affect their land. Southwest corner is not their property.

--By Westport Park, 130 foot from gravel and no cross road so 50 foot from one-mile fenceline.

Nathan: Talks with Dan Eckard, they don't move snow. They've considered bridge north of Hanson's house would like to close. More than likely accessed from west. Cost of county to maintain that road?

---Type of soil there, manure is absorbed into the soil. The moisture is what's going to be absorbed. Nitrogen portion rarely moved. Apply manure to soil needs and not over apply. These two buildings will not service their 500 acres.

---Barns would get powerwashed every 4-6 weeks.

Kathy: In terms of water quality, phosphorous in the culprit. Does water off of this flow into the pits? Irrigated land. One inch of rain is 43,000 gallons per acre, while this would be 3,000 gallons per acre of manure.

---Pump out of aquifer to irrigate their land. Anything that would get out would go back to the aquifer and be pumped back out onto the farm.

Betty Besh: May I ask why you want to build there? Nate Collins lives in Milford. Nate: I honestly wouldn't be afraid to put that in my house yard if I had an acreage. Not affect to the extent of the finishing. Dan Lorch: Most of the buildings that you're going to see is finishers. For this will need three finishing sites.

---Man next to Betty: Bio safety. More you have on one site the worse off the animals. Dan's pigs go in. For financial, if problem in hog market smaller sites are easier to fill.

Lee: Is there a distance for a biohazard? Dan: Half mile. Eric: A truck going by can make your pigs sick? Didn't know that.

Betty: Lived in that area. People fish there.

Nathan: Biosecure problem is half-mile. If it can go hog-to-hog, can go hog to person? Pariculate matter coming out of fans, hydrogen sulfide is what smell. Nursery is decreased by about 90 percent. Dust comes off 30-pound pig is dry skin, like we have in our houses.

---Similar situation in Osceola County with Dustin Wingate property

Lee: Are we setting a precedent. What's going to stop the next person for saying let's put another confinement on the east side? DNR requirements.

County will open road up, taxes? Nate will pay taxes.

Lee: Possibility of moving?

Nate: Landowners decided to work with them on the project and in turn they get the manure on their property. Move ½ mile off property, they have to pay to get it brought back. That becomes money out of their pocket (Gene and Gerry Van Stelton). Move to north and put 100-yard driveway down to the building? Gerry: Right to the south of someones building side would be with the prevailing winds. Wintertime winds from north, and close all but one fan for duration of winter. Summer majority of wind from south, blowing it away from Westport Park.

Willia: Are you mainly concerned about that smell? Karen: Will the quality of the fishing go down? Cannot discharge out of livestock facilities.

Lee: Sound? Stood in driveway probably wouldn't hear fans. Loading/unloading, trucks would be biggest noise. Adjust amount of grain bins on site, so feed truck only 1-2 times per six weeks. Finishing could be semi every two days. Six weeks in the barn and one week empty.

Eric: Lose? Two percent lose. Would take to another site

Karen: Flood plain zone? Nate: Applied DNR for permits and haven't received, but said shouldn't be a problem.

Eric: Thank you for comments. Good to get together and discuss.

Lee: I want to make sure, we didn't talk to these people and ask them to come. You might have some other hurdles to jump. Eugene: Beijing China didn't realize industrial would pollute the whole city. It just can't be the same as it used to be. Willia: You're talking differently here finishing place versus a nursery.

---This conservation probably does have an advantage over the supervisors because they can't vote us out. Willia: Need to do more research ourselves. Pam: Talk to Nick Schmalen, tour other facilities similar. Kathy: Talk with Clean Water Alliance John Wills about water quality.

---Eric: Concern about rural water. Can you put livestock on rural water? It's federally-funded and heavily subsidized by taxpayer.

---Plant natural barrier. Could be concession to ask for.

---Questions: Aquifer (when applied on land). Willia: I think it's minimal. The nursery is different than those finishers.

---6 p.m. May 13 will go for a ride, meet at Nature Center.

Recycling center updates: 23,081.40 reimbursed from Landfill Commission. John is down to 70 hours of comp time. It was 240 and 260 of vacation hours. Kathy: What does Iowa code say about this whole

thing? Have to pay overtime or get comp time? When he was executive director he wasn't supposed to be getting comp time.

Milford shop: Christiansen Construction design. Free bays was on the initial. Road department will have 400 sq ft office. Road dept. bathroom will act as shelter. Possibly put out for bid in June and not start on building until next spring. Financing in house, break into two years. County/secondary roads/conservation would come together. Could be 30 percent. Lee: I didn't know we were paying anything. Wonderful to have them together but we have a facility. We're going to have to have someone there at that facility. If spend \$300,000 it should be at HSB where employees would have to be. Going to move personnel off-site? Drug bust there on Friday. Need to have discussion with county engineer. Eric would encourage cooperation between conservation and county. Some equipment would have to stay at HSB. Lee: Everybody likes new, and it's wonderful, but we have to make sure it's the direction we want to go.

Semi-trailer: Gone. Sold for 1100.

Gift shop: About \$2,000 invested. Need resale certificate? Discuss how Conservation Foundation

Public meeting with Jane Dokken Wednesday, June 11.

Budget amendment: \$77,000 for land acquisition spent and transferred, so budget needs amended to catch that transfer. Budget amendment for landfill commission salaries and reduction. Need to amend about \$110,000. Public hearing needed. No action needed.

County Conservation Board Areas:

HSB: Lonnie Sanders ag land doesn't get leased. Can't put stop to it yet since not terminated lease, although no official lease. 40 acres. No agreement, basically free farming. Will send paperwork this fall. Can be sued since doing it in the past. Kathy: Let them know the sooner the better. Food plots to be planted there.

RAGBRAI: No camping. Extended hours, open to the public.

Osceola County Rural water agreement: Were going to charge 23,000 and now down to \$9,050. Was budgeted. They contract it out. Boring under the creek, will fix water leaks. Motion Kleen, Mueske second. Approved.

Judd Wildlife: Burned brome grass, about 40 acres at Judd. Burned some Horseshoe Bend. About 1-2 weeks left to burn because starting to green up. INHF contacted about an area would like burned.

Horseshoe Bend area: Jester Park Master Plan. Could cost \$19,000. We have to take a real hard look about doing it in-house with designing. Flood plain in bottom anyway. Kleen: We haven't really

looked at what we wanted to do with HSB. RDG isn't only people who do this. Sometimes can get students to do a project. Proposal could cost lower than that.

Approval of expenses. Kleen motion/Mueske second. Approved.

Adjourn, Kleen motion, Mueske second. Adjourn at 9:30 p.m.