

Dickinson County Conservation Board

7 p.m. July 8, 2014

Presiding chair: Eric Stoll

Board members present: Willia Mueske, Steve Anderson, Kathy Kleen, Joan Gronstal

Employees present: Lee Sorenson, Karess Knudtson, Kiley Roth

Others present: Pam Jordan

Agenda approval: Willia Mueske motion, Steve Anderson second, motion carried.

Approval of last month's minutes: Kleen motion, Anderson second, motion carried.

Director Comments: Thank you for an interesting/exciting year. Need a one-year review for Lee.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: The foundation meets next week. Lee met with Matt Thelen and talked about the deck, and the contractor fixed the deck. He also added 4-by-4s on the amphitheater. The nature center needs to get the concrete pad on lower level fixed so it drains away from building.

Environmental education: Karess reported Frances Owen started in May as an intern and has been a great asset. Summer programming started in June. Young Naturalists has about 10, and Young Nature Explorers usually has around 30 children and additional adults. Hike the Wild has been a successful program so far. The Butterfly House has been revamped with paint and new displays, and the response has been positive.

Mueske asked about the disc golf course, and concrete pads need to be installed yet this year to use up grant money.

Kleen asked about the Kayak A Wetland program and how we meet the needs of the groups that use the program. We need to reassess where it is and where we want it to go. Karess wants to give participants a questionnaire to ask what their opinions are. Anderson commented that it originally started as educational and has moved more into recreational. Mueske said it has become quite a social thing. Lee talked with Yvonne, who said it's supposed to be a fundraiser, and that's not happening. She would like to be involved again. Pam Jordan is on an e-mail list for kayaking; Marian Montgomery is the contact person.

Recycling center: Eric Stoll, Lee and Dennis Daily will conduct four interviews for recycling center position. Paul Arnold was hired as temporary desk help. Landfill commission motioned to increase the levy up to \$5 in FY16. Full-time staff will run about \$54,000, levy would only increase to about \$37,000. Storm damage has been beneficial to recycling center.

Three people will go to the hazardous materials class in Des Moines, and Lee hopes to send the new hire even though it's short notice.

Kleen said took TV down and Sawyer Marco unloaded the large TV himself without a type of brace/lifting belt. Lee needs to talk to safety coordinator Mike Rainer. Lee is comparing prices with other TV recyclers other than Recycletronics.

Demanufacturing class will be in August.

Director law enforcement status: Board approved Lee to be certified law enforcement officer last July and wanted to revisit it. He has not been called at all and hasn't felt the need to do it around the office. He would like to keep the certification up. Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Motion carried.

Concerns have been brought up regarding residents of the Pride Group next door.

Needs assessment: Poor turnout for needs assessment in in June. Two members of the public attended: Sue Boettcher and LeRoy Koepp. Survey is available online and with the paper.

Storm damage: Keeping track of storm damage for FEMA, although it's unsure if we will be declared a disaster area or not.

Board member conference: IACCB annual conference is Sept. 25-27 in Sioux City.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

1. Butterfly House has been updated, painted and had displays added.
2. Knudtson property: Anderson motion to approve REAP grant application, Kleen second. Motion carried.
3. Dickinson County Endowment Fund grant: Requested \$6,200 from DCEF for the Butterfly House and native gardens for plants and a shade structure. Gronstal motion, Mueske second to approve grant. Motion carried.
4. Horseshoe Bend: Camping area is open again.
5. Property names: Lee recommends renaming Zimmer Tract and including it under the Judd Wildlife Area. Kleen asked why the property was named Judd and said a certain gift should be donated for it to be named after people. Anderson said Milford Woods might already have part of it named Foote Woods after a donor. We want to name the Zimmer Tract and have a ribbon cutting. The staff will compile some ideas for names.
6. Tour of areas: Lee needs to set up a time with the board of supervisors, and the rest of the conservation board and members and employees who can go will join in at that time.

Approval of expenses: Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Motion carried. Questions were brought up about the \$3,600 heated power washer. Kleen said it was a misappropriation of funds and should not happen again.

General discussion

REAP Plan: Lee is attempting to update the REAP plan that was last completed in 1993.

Windmill: Water sample from the well from four years ago passed except for chloroform and was shocked. Lee thinks the current test will come back safe.

Trails: Lee, Pam Jordan and Mardi Allen are looking at getting payment for care of the trails to go to the conservation board.

Shooting range: The city of Lake Park wants to work with the conservation board to set up a shooting range near Lake Park, near Twin Forks. Kleen and Mueske think that the conservation board's one shooting range is enough. A member of the board of supervisors is pushing to have this new shooting range. Jordan said the conservation board has the right to say no, and Lee does not want to have two shooting ranges to manage in the county.

Lakeside Lab: Lee has talked with Mike Lannoo, the new co-director, and he said Lakeside wants to focus on adult college education courses. Our question is where is the conservation board's environmental education sitting? The new directors want to get more enrollment and programming at the college level. Gronstal and Kleen need to meet with Karess and Charles to discuss environmental education and the conservation board's connection with Lakeside Lab.

Pam Jordan: She said clean-up on the trail went well, but wood chips and a tree need removed from the ditch.

Adjournment at 9:22 p.m. Anderson motion, Mueske second. Motion carried.