

Dickinson County Conservation meeting minutes

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8

Dickinson County Nature Center

2279 170th St., Okoboji

Chair: Willia Mueske

Vice chair: Kathy Kleen

Board members: Steve Anderson, Joan Gronstal arrive at 7:10 p.m.

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board of supervisors liaison:

Others:

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

Agenda approval motion by Anderson, Kleen second, approved.

Approval of past month's minutes: Kleen motion, Anderson second. Approved.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: The foundation does not meet until next week.

Environmental education update: The Bee & Butterfly Festival drew in 595 people; the honey extraction demonstration drew in a full crowd in the lower level of the nature center. Comment cards were submitted, and all responses except five said they would come again. Those five people said "maybe" but they were from out of state.

The disc golf course has been quite popular, and a PDGA tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 13. Steps were installed in the kame to help the erosion problem of people walking up and down the hill in Kenue Park.

Operations and facility update

- A. Recycling center:** A budget amendment is needed as hazardous materials disposal has been expensive so far this fiscal year.
- B. Schoolhouse roof:** A contract has been signed, and the work is scheduled to be completed in September.
- C. Living Roadway Trust Fund:** Three grants applications were approved, and signatures from the board are needed. Anderson motion to approve the signatures, Gronstal second. Approved.
- D. Equipment purchase:** Maintenance tech Brian Cuperus and IRVM vegetation specialist Aric Ping received bids for a skid loader. The budget had \$60,000 for a skid loader and a truck, but that amount will only fund one option. Cuperus would like a skid loader with forestry mower; the bid came in at \$39,867 for the skid loader and \$54,874 with options. Kleen motion to approve the purchase, Gronstal second. Approved.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

- A. Milford Woods:** Mueske and Sorenson met with adjacent landowners Ann and Lee Ditsworth at the nature center about their easement allowing access to the conservation board's Milford Woods property. The parking lot on the property is under construction. The area still needs a name, and the west timber parcel needs to be named after LaVonne Foote. The Little Foote Forest and the Little Sioux Savannah were names submitted by the conservation board staff. Kleen motion to accept the names, Gronstal second. Approved. Anderson suggested putting up road signs with distances to all the local parks --- Horseshoe Bend, Little Foote Forest, Little Sioux Savannah and Judd Wildlife Area. Judd Wildlife Area may be renamed as well.
- B. Osceola Rural Water Easement:** An easement is needed for the water supply from the summer side of Horseshoe Bend to 240th Street. The easement will be in the middle of the tube hill, but it will still be usable. The pipeline will be about 4 feet deep, and the easement is requested to be 25 feet each direction from the center of the pipe. Board members would like to ask why the easement is 50 feet when it does not need to be and how that easement would restrict board activities.
- Osceola Rural Water is not sure it would be able to give capacity if a snow machine was installed at Horseshoe Bend; a storage tank may be needed.
- C. Spring Run Shooting Range:** No update has come from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Approval of expenses: Kleen motion to approve the September expenses, Anderson second. Approved.

General discussion:

REAP assemblies: The District 3 REAP assembly will be held Sept. 30 at the Clay County Regional Events Center in Spencer, with an open house 6-6:30 p.m. and the assembly held 6:30-8 p.m.

Bio-cell: The East Okoboji Beach biocell has been taken care of as much as possible.

Horseshoe Bend bridge: A donor has come forward to give some money to the project, as what has been donated so far will only cover engineering costs.

Log cabin: Sorenson has contacted home movers about the possibility of moving a private cabin that has been offered to the board but has not heard back from the company.

REAP grant: Roth attended the REAP grant award session in Des Moines Sept. 8.

Gronstal motion to adjourn, Kleen second. Adjourn at 8:08 p.m.