

**Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting minutes**

**7 p.m. Oct. 13, 2015**

**Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279 170<sup>th</sup> St., Okoboji**

**Chair:** Willia Mueske

**Vice chair:** Kathy Kleen

**Board members:** Joan Gronstal, Eric Stoll, Steve Anderson arrive at 7:08 p.m.

**Employees:** Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth, depart at 9:12 p.m.

**Board liaison:** Pam Jordan

**Others:** Doug Westerman, Osceola County Rural Water System, depart at 7:44 p.m.

Call meeting to order 7 p.m.

**Approval of last month's minutes:** Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update:** Membership is up to 108. The board approved up to \$1,500 for an aeration system for the Kenue Park wetland which will allow the nature center to keep its swans all winter. The board is recruiting new members.

**Environmental education update:** Field trips are underway. Roth attended the Iowa Country Schoolhouse Conference at the Iowa Arboretum in Madrid to learn schoolhouse projects in the Midwest and to gather ideas for the Westport Rural Schoolhouse.

**Osceola County Rural Water System easement:** The organization requested an easement at Horseshoe Bend that was addressed initially at the September meeting. Anderson was concerned about the 50-foot proposed easement above the 4-inch water line requesting to be installed in the park, but Westerman said the non-exclusive easement could be made smaller if necessary. Anderson requested a 20-foot easement that wouldn't impact any of the existing structures at Horseshoe Bend. Westerman and Sorenson will stake out a route on bring the proposal back to the board.

**Operations and facility update:**

**Recycling center:** Demanufacturing has caught up. The board of supervisors would like to put a restroom facility in the recycling center.

**Schoolhouse roof:** The new, wood shake schoolhouse roof has been installed.

**Annual report:** The annual report given to the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors was distributed to conservation board members.

**Fall board member conference:** Mueske and Sorenson attended the fall board member conference in Cedar Rapids. The county will be working on ADA compliance at public areas.

**Resolution for IWILL:** The IACCB board asked that each county sign a resolution to sign the Iowa Water and Land Legacy tax. Anderson motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

**Dickinson County Conservation Board area:**

**Barn future/Butterfly House:** The building architect looked at the barn, and he said the barn roof has issues with spreading and beams. His recommendation was not to try to save the building. A Morton Building contractor came to look at the space to view the possibility of doing a new combination storage and Butterfly House building.

**Spring Run Shooting Range:** Lead reclamation is scheduled for January, and construction is slated to begin April 1. Sorenson has a meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources officials this week to discuss the project.

**Little Sioux Savannah/Little Foote Forest hunting:** “Public Hunting” and “Private Property Beyond This Point” signs will be posted throughout the area. Anderson suggested putting up a sign that says “You’re Within 200 Yards of a Residence” to protect neighboring property as well. Stoll motion to allow hunting on the two properties, Anderson second. Approved.

The neighbors on the south side of the Little Sioux Savannah have allowed an easement for conservation board staff to enter the property.

**Approval of expenses:** Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation requested an annual donation. Kleen motioned to donate \$300, Gronstal second. Approved.

Kleen motion to pay the month’s bills, Anderson second. Approved.

**General discussion:**

**REAP Meeting:** Sorenson attended the district REAP meeting in September and was nominated as a state delegate. IRVM vegetation manager Aric Ping was nominated as an alternate.

**Osprey camera:** The osprey camera on the nest in Kenue Park went down this summer, and it was anticipated to purchase a second camera. Since funding is not feasible to purchase a second camera, there is a question as to where to put the osprey camera.

**Staffing:** Staffing changes were discussed.

**Adjournment motion by Kleen, second by Anderson. Approved. Adjournment at 10:10 p.m.**