

Dickinson County Conservation Board

April 14, 2014

Dickinson County Nature Center

Chairperson: Willia Mueske

Vice chair: Kathy Kleen

Board members: Eric Stoll, Steve Anderson, Kathy Kleen, Joan Gronstal

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Karess Knudtson, Kiley Roth

Guests: Pam Jordan, Dan Eckert, Neil Guess

1. Call to order 7:01 p.m.
2. Agenda approval. Unanimously approved.
3. Approval of past month's minutes. Gronstal motion, Stoll second. Approved.
4. Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: Board member Brianna Graff resigned from the board.
5. Environmental education update: Knudtson mentioned that the main thrust of the staff has been working on the new displays throughout the nature center. Programs have been scheduled for the Abbie Gardner Cabin in Arnolds Park. Many school field trips are booked for May. The Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for Friday, April 17. Camp registration is open for summer, and registration is available online.
6. Operations and facility update
 - a. Recycling center: Cody Aden has been hired as a seasonal employee to help recycling manager Sawyer Marco. Spirit Lake's green waste site is now a gated facility for only Spirit Lake and Orleans residents, excluding commercial operations, so green waste is expected to increase at the Milford Recycling Center. Hours have increased for the summer season, and green waste prices have increased. These changes are reflected in the new brochure for the center.
 - b. IRVM: A new roadside manager has been hired, with an anticipated start date of May 6.
7. DCCB areas
 - a. Horseshoe Bend master plan: Neil Guess, a principal engineer at Bolton & Menk of Spencer, attended to talk about the process of creating a master plan. The area has quite a shopping list of projects to address. Guess would like to work with the county to get aerial photography from the GIS department in Dickinson County.
 - i. Eckert said the bridge and road project at Horseshoe Bend is slated for October 2018. A bike trail is expected to be incorporated into the new bridge, which is designed by Calhoun and Associates of Des Moines. The grade of the hill by the tubing hill is 16 percent at this point, but federal regulations need a 10 percent grade. The canoe access will be affected, although it is not sure if the tubing hill will be affected. The bridge was originally constructed in 1956 and is approaching its life expectancy. The bridge is estimated at \$1.5 million, but the road will not be moved east or west.

- ii. Anderson commented on the tubing hill investment made just a few years ago and if the equipment there can be moved and where it could move to. Some of the cost to move the tubing hill could be borne by the road department. Eckert said that moving the hill 50-60 feet would cost less than moving the entire hill. Anderson also discussed the possibility of moving the tubing hill to the north side of the property; however, the current hill has been engineered to only gain a certain amount of speed with the tubes utilized on it. Eckert said that the roads department could put stakes out where the project would go in order for the board to see the impact of the road project. Sorenson said the possibility of moving the sled hill would not have come up except for the road project.
 - iii. A kickoff for the master plan could be done within the next 30 days.
 - iv. Stoll motion to accept a contract with Bolton & Menk for a master plan not to exceed \$8,480, Anderson second. Approved.
 - b. Milford Woods update: In approximately six weeks, the \$100,000 reimbursement from NACA will be received and transferred back to the county. The woods portion must be named after LaVonne Foote and another name will be selected for the second parcel.
 - c. Land acquisition: The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation asked if the DCCB was interested in a piece of property outside of Milford that would work for a canoe access. Mueske said that board has plans in the making for other properties already; Kleen said that she is not against property that has purpose but this might not fit the bill. Sorenson does not like operating in the red, and this property may not have much unique about it that would justify purchase. Anderson would like to do a survey of the property before the board would consider purchase.
 - i. Orr's Camp Winakawin campground on Upper Gar Lake is also for sale, which is 140 acres, and is taking sealed bids in May. The property includes 1,770 feet of shoreline.
 - d. Mueske also brought up the cost of roofing the Westport Schoolhouse, and board members discussed the possibility of roofing the school with steel shakes.
 - 8. Approval of expenses: Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved.
 - 9. General discussion:
 - a. Knudtson updated the board on the We Pedal Clean Water bike ride held June 13, as a part of the Arnolds Park 125th anniversary. The bike ride will go around West Lake Okoboji and will stop at different areas of conservation importance around the lake for educational purposes.
 - 10. Gronstal motion to adjourn, Anderson second. Approved 8:47 p.m.