

Dickinson County Conservation Board



Meeting Agenda

7:00 p.m., August 9, 2016

Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279 170th Street, Okoboji, IA

Chairperson: Kathy Kleen
Vice chair: Joan Gronstal
Board members: Willia Mueske, Steve Anderson, Eric Stoll
Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth
Board liaison: Pam Jordan
Others: Delores Maser, Al Maser

- 1. Call to order at 7:02 p.m.**
- 2. Agenda approval:** Mueske motion, Anderson second. Approved with change in order to allow Maser family to speak first.
- 3. Barn discussion:** Al and Delores Maser discussed with a land tenant about taking down the barn and outbuildings from the former county farm. Gary DeJong of Hull looked at the buildings and said he could complete the job in August, with the work lasting three days. Fee is \$160 per hour per piece of equipment and the job would need two pieces of equipment, for a total of approximately \$10,000-\$12,000.
"That would clean up the whole campus," Al Maser said.
The contractor would dig a whole, cave in the buildings and then burn the debris. The silo would be more of a challenge since it mostly concrete, and all the concrete would be buried, except for the pad by the Butterfly House. The excavation area would be covered in two feet of black dirt and could be seeded with natives.
A space is needed to store equipment in Kenue Park, and a Morton building could be erected for approximately \$10,000-\$12,000. Masers would fund half of the complete project, at approximately \$10,000-\$12,000. The concrete and the silo are a "wild card," because the work needed is unexpected. The contractor would attempt to salvage the cupolas.
Kleen asked how much money was budgeted, and Sorenson said funds in the capital fund would be available to use for this project.
"That's a wonderful offer," Stoll said.
Everything has been cleaned out of the barn except for some remaining patio furniture.
"If we have the money in the budget, I don't see why we don't just do it," Anderson said. "We've been talking about this for years."
An engineer has diagnosed the barn as structurally unsound.
Anderson motion to move forward, Gronstal second. Cupolas would be attempt to be salvaged. Anderson suggested scrapping the windmill, but Delores Maser suggested talking to sculpture artist Bill Lieb about using the metal from the windmill to create a sculpture that would speak to the history of the land. Jordan said a replica might be enough rather than trying to salvage the entire thing. The Maser funds would go toward the new Morton building instead of the barn demolition. Motion approved.
- 4. Approval of past months minutes:** Mueske motion, Gronstal second. Approved.
- 5. Conservation Foundation Of Dickinson County update:** Carol Armstrong has stepped down as of 2016. New member Greta Gruys was approved for a three-year term. Three spots are still open to fill on the board. There are 84 current members of the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County.
- 6. Environmental education update:** Camp was held in July and had successful attendance. We Pedal Clean Water bike ride is this weekend, Saturday, Aug. 13, beginning at Ainsworth-Orleans Beach on Big Spirit Lake.

7. Operations and facility update

- **Chris Hamilton:** Due to a personal accident, Hamilton will be rescheduled for the September meeting.
- **Recycling center:** Bathroom project has been completed.
- **Fall Board Member Conference:** The conference is Sept. 15-17 in Fort Dodge. It overlaps the Clay County Fair. The registration deadline is Aug. 15.
- **District Meeting:** Dickinson County held the district meeting this month with 29 participants in the 16-county region. The meeting included a meeting, tour of the Abbie Gardner Historical Site and Cabin as well as a ride on the Queen II.
- **Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa work order:** The corps bring in a crew, and vegetation specialist Aric Ping would like to have the crew for three days for \$4,950 for the six-member crew. Ping would like to have help with weeds at the Little Foote Forest. Anderson motion to approve the work order, Gronstal second. Anderson added a caveat to promote it so other cities and counties learn about it, because he has pushed to get this crew here for a long time. "I know this crew. I know the work they do. They do fabulous work," Anderson said. Work will begin Oct. 10-13. Approved.

8. Dickinson County Conservation Board Area's

a. Horseshoe bend proposal for sled hill: The board of supervisors agenda has been full, so the proposal has yet to go to the board. Jordan would like a joint meeting at the site again, possibly along with a county parks tour. "I think this is important to go in front of the supervisors way in front of budget time," she said.

b. REAP Grant: The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has been doing a fund drive to try to get additional funds for the property and has tweaked the grant request. Gronstal motion, Anderson second. Approved.

c. Ainsworth Bathroom Update: Iowa Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist said preliminary plans have been put into place. The garage on the property will be demolished and that area made into a parking lot. The plans are still going forth for fall construction. The bathroom will include an outdoor shower for people to wash off sand from the beach.

d. Shooting Range update: The range was shut down for two days for lead reclamation. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is not sure where funding for the range updates will come from.

e. AWC meeting: Jordan, Sorenson and CFDC president Becky Peters met with Steve Rasmussen from the Andrea Waitt Carlton Foundation to discuss places to recognize the foundation's contribution to the Dickinson County Nature Center, possibilities could include the naming of an educational series, a scholarship or an award. Possibilities will be discussed in the future.

9. Approval of Expenses: Anderson motion, Mueske second. Approved.

10. General Discussion

- Sorenson participated in the Milford Pioneer Days parade, and he and Roth had a float and threw candy in the Estherville Sweet Corn Days parade. The skunk float was well-received.
- Kleen asked about weeds on public property and who would be in charge of taking care of Canada thistles within the city of Spirit Lake. It can be handled through the county weed commissioner.
- Okoboji Brewing Company has begun using yeast from the Iowa Great Lakes for beer fermentation, and Kleen thinks that could make an interesting program for adults at the nature center.
- Progress is being made on the nature playscape.

11. Adjournment: Motion by Mueske, second by Gronstal. Adjourn at 8:39 p.m.