

Dickinson County Conservation Board
7:00 p.m., December 13, 2016
Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279 170th Street, Okoboji, IA

Chair: Kathy Kleen
Board members: Steve Anderson, Willia Mueske
Board liaison: Pam Jordan
Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

1. **Call to order at 7:04 p.m.**
2. **Agenda approval motion by Mueske, second by Anderson. Approved.**
3. **Approval of past month's minutes. Anderson motion, Mueske second. Approved.**
4. **Conservation Foundation Of Dickinson County update:** The CFDC had its annual dinner Christmas meeting. The foundation is financially sound.
5. **Environmental education update:** Boy Scouts attended the Turkey Trot hike in November. The conservation board is still working with the Spirit Lake sixth-grade students on rejuvenating the Audubon sanctuary in Spirit Lake. Naturalist Charles Vigdal is planning a Master River Stewards program (similar to Master Gardeners) in the spring.
6. **Operations and facility update**
 - **Recycling Center Updates:** The brush pile was started on fire now that snow covered the ground. It is expected to smolder for approximately a week.
 - **Ainsworth Beach Update:** Bids for the bathroom project are being accepted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, but construction is not expected until September 2017. The garage on the property will be demolished, and more parking will be added. Sorenson met with the Spirit Lake Protective Association and Kabeles, which are hoping for a boat dock at Ainsworth-Orleans Beach, but others don't think the area is large enough or deep enough. Anderson said perhaps a floating dock would be an option. Kleen mentioned that people could park at the pump house and walk down to the drive-in restaurant at Ainsworth-Orleans Beach.
 - **Pollinator Paradise Update:** Meetings with donors have taken place, and a cost estimate has come from the architect at \$500,000 for the building plus a cost of about \$1.2 million for the interior exhibits. Donors have given positive feedback about fundraising. The architect is hoping to complete 3D drawings by mid-January, and Sorenson would not like to start any sort of construction unless at least \$750,000 is raised. Donors would also like to start an endowment for future displays in this new area.
 - **Job Descriptions Reviews:** Tabled until January meeting.
7. **Dickinson County Conservation Board Areas**
 - a. **Horseshoe bend/sledding hill:** Sorenson has been going through paperwork to decipher the history of the Horseshoe Bend land as the sledding hill transitions due to upcoming road work. The particulate machine borrowed from the landfill commission to make snow at the tubing hill ended up making ice instead of snow, but staff are going to work on trying out different nozzles that could make a finer mist to try to make snow instead of ice.
8. **Approval of Expenses:** Anderson motion, Mueske second. Approved.
9. **General Discussion**
 - Kleen said she appreciated the conservation board Christmas card.

-Sorenson distributed information on the Natural Resource and Enhancement Trust Fund (Iowa's Water and Land Legacy/IWILL). Legislators look to be pushing for more money to go toward agriculture/water quality rather than keeping the formula the same. Conservation boards are pushing to pass IWILL while keeping the financial distribution formula the same. IWILL would constitutionally protect conservation funding, whereas the Resource Enhancement And Protection fund is generally one of the first funds to be cut, and REAP is already threatened for 2017.

-The Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards is asking for input from new board members, but Sorenson asked that all Dickinson County board members fill out the form to give our county's input.

-Iowa Lakeside Lab has hired a new director, Mary Skopec, from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

-The conservation board district has changed from meeting registration fees to a flat \$200 annual fee, hoping to cover costs better than the \$10 per person meeting fee has.

10. Adjournment: Motion by Anderson, Mueske second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:20 p.m.