

**Dickinson County Conservation Board**

**7 p.m. Jan. 12, 2016**

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

**Chair:** Willia Mueske

**Vice chair:** Kathy Kleen

**Board members:** Steve Anderson, Eric Stoll, Joan Gronstal arrive at 7:47 p.m.

**Employees:** Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

**Call to order 7 p.m.**

**Agenda amendment to include election of officers for 2016. Anderson motion, Stoll second. Agenda approved with addition.**

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

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County:** The 25-minute meeting included goals of increasing membership, increasing board members and doing a fundraiser.

**Environmental education update:** The staff will go to Winterfest next week, and Anderson will be a presenter on beekeeping. The osprey camera has arrived, and cable will be run so the camera can be focused on the swans through the winter.

**Operations and facility update:**

**Recycling center:** A budget amendment hearing is set for Jan. 28. A grant for \$5,000 has been received, and another grant application has been submitted. The brush pile was burned. Cody Aden will be returning as part-time help.

**Butterfly House:** A donor approached Sorenson about updating the Butterfly House.

**Staffing update:** Two more naturalist interviews were conducted.

**DCCB areas**

**Horseshoe Bend east bridge:** A letter was written to the Williams family that wanted to donate money to repair the west bridge at Horseshoe Bend, which is not fixable. Talks about what to do with the memorial are still ongoing within the family about how to proceed. The Corps of Engineers has approved the board to start the process to repair the east bridge.

**Horseshoe Bend winter sports area:** Sorenson discussed the road project and tubing hill move with the county engineer. A variety of options of how to keep the tubing hill even with the road changes were discussed, and the first proposal from the county engineer was not agreed upon.

**Knudtson property:** The Fish Habitat Grant partially funded the land acquisition, but the board denied the funds because it would prevent the board from applying for a REAP grant.

**Budget discussion:** Insurance increases have upped the budget for the 2016-17 year. Salaries will increase by 2.3 percent, as recommended by the compensation board, as well as STEP for those staff members still on that program. The vegetation specialist may be moved to the Rural Basic Fund instead of the general fund. About \$30,000 was also budgeted for planning for a new maintenance shop. Gronstal motion, Stoll second. Budget approved.

**Election of officers:** Nominations opened for chair and vice chair of the DCCB. Gronstal nominate Kleen for chair. Anderson motion to cease nominations, Stoll second. Stoll aye. Gronstal aye. Anderson aye. Mueske aye. Approve Kleen for chair.

Nominations open for vice chair. Stoll nominate Gronstal for vice chair. Nominations ceased. Unanimous approval of Gronstal for vice chair.

**Approval of expenses:** Anderson motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

**General discussion:** The Ainsworth-Orleans Beach bathroom project is now slated for fall 2016, at the earliest.

With the positive response to the tubing hill, Anderson asked if we should start looking into purchasing a snow machine. Mueske suggested waiting, because this high response could be because the tubing hill has been closed for so long. The last record of the tubing hill being open for the season had 27 open days.

**Gronstal motion to adjourn, Anderson second. Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.**