

**Dickinson County Conservation Board**  
**2279 170<sup>th</sup> St., Okoboji**  
**7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8**

**Chair person: Joan Gronstal**  
**Vice chair: Steve Anderson**  
**Board members: Eric Stoll**  
**Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth**  
**Board liaison: Pam Jordan, present via phone**

Anderson motion to approve the agenda. Stoll second. Approved.

Anderson motion to approve last month's minutes. Stoll second. Approved.

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update:** The meeting was lengthy as the architect from Cannon Moss Brygger came to talk about the proposal for the Pollinator Paradise addition and capped the amount up to \$45,000. Lance Evans with Northwest Wealth Management came to talk about the CFDC's financial sitting. A \$500,000 donation was made toward the Pollinator Paradise project. Vegetation specialist Aric Ping requested matching funds for a pollinator habitat grant, and the CFDC agreed to supply the funds that would be 80 percent reimbursed if the grant proposal is approved. Former board member Shirley Rasmussen's name was still on some accounts, and current board members replaced her on those accounts.

**Environmental education update:** Former naturalist Mary Petersen is helping out part-time with programs as we transition to new environmental education staff. Charles Vigdal is working with Iowa Lakeside Lab to finish putting together the Master River Stewards program, with training April-May. Registration will be available for the program starting next month.

**Operations and facilities update**

**-Recycling center:** Charles Vigdal, new recycling center manager, is working on hazardous materials reporting that will go to the state for funding reimbursement. The septic system at the recycling center froze and had to be steamed open.

**-Pollinator Paradise:** The addition project is now out to the public. After the board of supervisors meeting, Sorenson did speak to KUOO about the project. In 2014, the nature center had 6,886. That grew to 8,050 in the nature center, and last year it grew to 9,799. Each summer, Pollinator Paradise draws in about 1,040. Project leaders are hoping to get bids and start construction by June 1. Sorenson would like to reach \$900,000 in hand before construction begins to ensure its completion.

**-Staffing update:** Sorenson and Roth did two Skype interviews for the environmental education coordinator position, as both candidates were from out of state.

**-Ainsworth-Orleans Beach bathroom update:** A contractor for the project has been selected. Diamond Concrete will begin as soon as possible. The garage on the property will be torn down and will be replaced with additional parking. The new bathroom will also feature a shower on the outside.

**Dickinson County Conservation Board areas**

**-Horseshoe Bend sledding hill:** The road project looks like it will no longer affect the Horseshoe Bend Winter Sports Area tubing hill due to a confliction with federal funds, since both projects utilized federal funds. The tubing hill was open for Winter Games weekend.

**-INHF land acquisition:** The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Sorenson met with a landowner that is looking to sell his land for future ownership by the Dickinson County Conservation Board. The conservation board has also been working with INHF about having a donation of land from the Saddle Club. The Saddle Club has put stipulations on the land though. The board discussed changing some of the stipulations and making sure everyone is on the same page before going forward with the transaction. Stipulations by the Saddle Club are that the horse arena would remain as well as a short trail along the asphalt, that there would be no hunting and that if the conservation board decided it did not want the land anymore that it would revert back to the Saddle Club. However, if the land is acquired in addition to connecting lands, grant funds would have to be used, and that would not allow the land to revert back to the Saddle Club. The board would like to broaden the hunting clause to allowing bow hunting when needed by application. The recommended changes would be sent to the INHF.

**-Methodist Church land:** Board member Willia Mueske and Sorenson met with donors of a piece of land to the east of Big Spirit Lake, formerly owned by the United Methodist Church and now owned by the INHF. The Spirit Lake Protective Association is working to raise funds to purchase the land from the INHF, and the conservation board would then manage the land. Plans for the piece of land were considered, including making a trailhead, trail and a bird observation blind.

**-2018 budget:** The budget presentation to the board of supervisors went well, and Sorenson has not had any requests for cuts.

**Approval of expenses:** Anderson motion to approve, Stoll second. Approved.

#### **General discussion**

-An osprey picnic will be held in May in Colfax, IA, for those who were involved in osprey rejuvenation projects throughout the state.

-A legislative forum will be held 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Pearson Lakes Art Center in Okoboji. Anyone willing to talk about I-WILL will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the nature center to go over talking points prior to the forum. Anderson is a member of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, and at that meeting it looks like legislators are being swamped with questions about other issues, and coordinated efforts are needed to bring up I-WILL at the meeting. Anderson has also gone to city councils to get them to pass resolutions in favor of I-WILL. Milford Municipal Utilities and the cities of Milford and Okoboji have signed resolutions. Anderson will also be asking other local cities as well as the board of supervisors.

-The fall IACCB conference will be in Rock Valley, hosted by Lyon and Sioux counties.

**Anderson motion to adjourn. Stoll second. Adjourn at 8:53 p.m.**