

Dickinson County Conservation Board

Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279 170th St., Okoboji

7 p.m. Tuesday, May 9

Chair: Joan Gronstal

Vice chair: Steve Anderson

Board members: Willia Mueske, Kathy Kleen

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Call to order at 7:04 p.m.

Agenda approval: Mueske motion, Kleen second. Approved.

Approval of past month's minutes: Anderson motion, Kleen second. Approved.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: The new Pollinator Paradise addition was discussed. The CFDC will make a donation to the Iowa Great Lakes Association for its annual membership dues. Board members are being sought.

Environmental education update: Environmental education coordinator Bryanna Kuhlman has been busy with school programming. Programs are slated beginning Friday at the Abbie Gardner Cabin in Arnolds Park. The ad for a new full-time naturalist is out, and applications are needed.

Dickinson County Conservation Board Areas

-Saddle Club land donation/adjacent land: An agreement between the Dickinson County Conservation Board and Saddle Club was distributed that outlines stipulations such as keeping the arena intact for 10 years and the land going back to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation should the conservation board choose to not keep the land in the future. There will be no hunting restrictions as part of this agreement. This agreement will be recorded with the land abstract.

Mueske motion to accept the letter of agreement regarding the Saddle Club land donation; Kleen second. Approved.

-Knutson property naming: Jordan suggested naming the area south of Milford Pioneer Park, which embraces the history of the land. The idea of what people see as a "park" was questioned, but Gronstal said Fort Defiance State Park is called a park and it's not a playground area. We will have a sign on the historic mill site. Mueske suggested Pioneer Park Nature Preserve to add the more natural element. Kleen motion to call the land Pioneer Park Nature Preserve; Anderson second. Approved.

-Kenue Park: Cub Scouts have been allowed to camp at Kenue Park in the past, however, the park does not typically allow camping. Anderson said the Boy Scout Council must approve any site as an official site that meets certain requirements and asked if Kenue Park has been approved, including camp sites and running water. The Sheldon Boy Scouts asked if it would be allowed this year.

If the area is registered with the Scouts, Kleen motioned to allow camping for Scouts-only groups by reservation; Mueske second. Approved, with Anderson abstaining.

Operations and facility update

-Recycling center: As of right now, Milford is not having an appliance pick-up day. The city of Arnolds Park is doing tree removal and wanted to bring in root balls, but they do not go well through a wood chipper and take up a lot of space, so these were taken to the Dickinson County Landfill instead. An additional \$4,500 had to be put into an emergency fund for appliance disposal in case of facility closure.

The recycling center needs a new wheel loader because the tractor there is not sufficient for the jobs there and has had a myriad of problems. Sorenson has spoken with Ziegler CAT and has a quote for \$163,000 for a wheel loader/pay loader, plus \$20,000 trade-in for the tractor and implements. Sorenson would like to do the payments over three years. Sorenson would like to pay \$75,000 this fiscal year with an approximately \$25,000 additional payment if the funds allow at the end of the fiscal year, because of a surplus from staffing changes. These payments would decrease the payment plan to two years instead of three. Mueske motion to accept the bid for the CAT-930M Wheel Loader for \$163,060 with a \$22,000 trade value for a total of \$141,060.

People in the community have been discussing railroad ties coming from Minnesota to the Dickinson County Landfill, but that is legal.

-HSB shop update: A private architect is preparing specs for the shop building.

-Pollinator Paradise update: Some donors have rejected donations because funds for the season have already been committed. The Okoboji Foundation grant request was negated because the Dickinson County Conservation Board was involved in this project as well as the Reed's Run project from the Spirit Lake Protective Association, and the SLPA grant ranked higher. There is enough money right now for building construction, and the architect has finished specs. It will be sent out for bids.

Approval of expenses: Mueske motion, Kleen second. Approved.

General discussion

-The Ainsworth-Orleans Beach restroom is still under construction, and people have requested portable toilets on the land. Sorenson will rent portable toilets until the bathroom is finished.

-The Dickinson County Trails Board will have a tree planting ceremony 9:30 a.m.-noon tomorrow (Wednesday, May 10) at the trail along Peoria Avenue and Lake Street in Spirit Lake.

-The Spirit Lake Protective Association will hold a meeting at 1 p.m. Friday to discuss the Reed's Run project.

-The water feature in the nature center landscaping is still leaking, and a contractor will be coming to take a look at it again.

-Sorenson will send out his annual evaluation forms.

-Anderson said the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards board meeting has been postponed.

-The March for Science event held by Iowa Lakeside Lab along the trails between the art center and the nature center was discussed.

Mueske motion to adjourn, Kleen second. Approved. Adjournment at 8:27 p.m.