

Dickinson County Conservation Board

2279 170th St., Okoboji

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017

Vice president: Steve Anderson

Board members: Eric Stoll, Kathy Kleen

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Call to order at 7 p.m.

Agenda approval: Kleen motion, Stoll second. Approved.

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

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County: There was a question of \$10,000 being removed from one of the endowment funds. The treasurer will check if that was an accounting error or incorrect records. Vegetation specialist Aric Ping had requested funding for a monarch grant, and it will have to be sent to the county. It looks like the county will be able to then pay the CFDC back for its contribution.

Environmental education update: Environmental education coordinator Bryanna Kuhlman did a talk for Thanksgiving and Grandparents Day at Harris-Lake Park Elementary. Anderson mentioned that Okoboji schools has some 3D and virtual reality technology that will help with science programming that the naturalists may want to learn how to implement into programming.

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Jahn property: Sorenson attended the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors meeting to ask to leave the land as prairie under the maintenance of Dickinson County Conservation, in agreement with the Dickinson County Engineer, instead of returning it to an ag lease, and the supervisors agreed to leave the property as a natural area.

Adjacent land to Little Foote Forest update: Dickinson County Conservation has been working with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to purchase two parcels of land that will connect with Little Foote Forest. The total would be 45.16 acres for \$188,000 and would connect Little Foote Forest with the Saddle Club land as well as these two parcels.

"Nature" play: Friends of Lakeside Lab would like to bring a moving, outdoor play to Okoboji, beginning at the Pearson Lakes Art Center and coming to Kenue Park. Friends board members Jim Keck and Barb Mendenhall attended a meeting with the art center and conservation board employees to talk about funding. The Friends board is looking for \$5,000 from the conservation board and/or CFDC. The CFDC tabled the request because of concerns paying for Pollinator Paradise as well as for the monarch funding.

Kleen said she would like to the DCCB be supportive, and that would probably need to be financially. She said this would be a good partnership with Lakeside Lab and the art center.

Kleen motion to approve \$1,500 in the FY19 budget as well as staff hours and mowing of the trails as well as offering the location of the play in Kenue Park. Approved.

Operations and facility update

Maintenance shop: Quail Construction had good recommendations, and Sorenson is having the company make a contract to build the new Horseshoe Bend maintenance shop for just less than \$485,000.

Recycle center: As was discussed at the last meeting, the assessment was forgotten. Some cities have paid. The city of Milford is asking to see Dickinson County Landfill Commission minutes. The city of West Okoboji had questions about how much its assessment was, but it eventually agreed and is planning to pay the assessment. Currently, the assessment causes an approximately \$24,000 shortfall each year at the \$5 assessment. If that is raised to \$8 per household, that will make the recycling center in the black for the next five years.

Kolbeck Co. did come to chip brush, but its outlet has stopped taking chips so it stopped. About one-eighth of the chipping is done.

County home project: It should be \$80,000 for the asbestos abatement, but no proposal has been submitted to the DCCB so far.

Approval of expenses: Kleen motion to pay the bills, Stoll second. Approved.

General discussion

-Sorenson gave the weed commission report to the board members.

-Sorenson said there is a story that the conservation board may receive the land between Kenue Park and the former Inn at Okoboji.

Adjournment at 7:33 p.m. when Stoll had to leave.