

**Dickinson County Conservation Board**

**2279 170<sup>th</sup> St., Okoboji**

**7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018**

**Chair: Joan Gronstal, via phone**

**Vice chair: Steve Anderson**

**Board members: Eric Stoll, Kathy Kleen, Willia Mueske**

**Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth**

**Board liaison: Pam Jordan, via phone**

**Call to order 7:01 p.m.**

**Agenda approval:** Kleen motion, Mueske second. Approved.

**Approval of past month's minutes:** Mueske said the \$1,500 motion for the "Nature" play did not have "approved" on it. The school under "environmental education update" was Okoboji not Spirit Lake. Anderson motioned to approve minutes as corrected, Stoll second. Approved.

**Election of officers:** Anderson said that even though he is due to be president and is vice chair, he has his plate full as the new mayor of Milford. Mueske volunteered. Stoll would be next as vice chair. Mueske motion for slate of officers as put forward, Kleen second. Approved.

**Close meeting with Gronstal presiding 7:07 p.m. Mueske open meeting at 7:07 p.m.**

**Environmental education update:** The program numbers are similar to 2016 numbers. Kindergarten and first grade curriculum are up on the website. Roth has been working on the layout of our refreshed website design.

**Dickinson County Conservation Board areas**

**-Wetland project in Kenue Park:** This project launched about two years ago and an agreement with local property owners has been in the works. Anderson motion to approve agreement, Gronstal second. Approved.

**-Superior Marsh:** Chris LaRue with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has a plan to open a tile to get water into this marsh that does not currently have water in it. There is no cost to the county conservation board.

**Operations and facility update**

**-Recycle center:** The wood chipping company, Kohlbeck, has stopped chipping because its outlet is no longer needing chips. A furnace will be put in the back room. The Dickinson County Landfill Commission talked about the assessment per household for the county. Moving from \$5 to \$8 per year would cover all costs. The plan is to raise the assessment \$1 per year, but the DCLC will evaluate each assessment each year. The current shortfall is absorbed by the waste management fund.

**-FY19 budget:** Sorenson went through the proposed 2018-19 budget with the board. Sorenson has not budgeted anything for the neighboring former Pride Group property project that has been in discussion. The demolition/construction project, plus asbestos abatement at approximately \$86,000, is estimated at \$579,950. These numbers will be presented to a possible interested donor. If the donor is interested and the land becomes the conservation board's, a budget will need to be created.

Gronstal motion to approve county's 3.5 percent pay increase for Sorenson as well as his final STEP, Stoll second. Approved.

Stoll asked about the trails revenue and if it the maintenance fee changed year to year. The current maintenance fee for the conservation board from the trails board has not changed since Sorenson lowered it when he began four years ago.

Jordan said the preliminary budget discussion for discretionary spending did have some money possibly set aside for the Horseshoe Bend shop.

Anderson motion to approve budget as presented, Kleen second. Approved.

**Approval of expenses:** Kleen motion, Stoll second. Approved.

#### **General discussion**

-Tom Gustafson has been taking drone photos of Kenue Park, requested by Al Maser.

-Gov. Kim Reynolds gave an address today (Jan. 9, 2018) that water quality is a priority in the state.

-The Spirit Lake Protective Association wanted a new boat slip at Ainsworth-Orleans Beach, but because of the large waves on the lake it looks like the boat ramp will need to be widened and have a dock in the middle of it. A grant will be submitted through the conservation board this year.

-Sorenson will present his proposed budget to the board of supervisors 1:45 p.m. Jan. 29.

-A Highway 71 beautification meeting for the public will be 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the Pearson Lakes Art Center in Okoboji.

Kleen motion to adjourn, Anderson second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:31 p.m.