

Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting

2279 170th St., Okoboji

7 p.m. Feb. 13, 2018

Vice chair: Eric Stoll, presiding

Members: Kathy Kleen, Steve Anderson, Joan Gronstal via phone

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan, via phone

Call to order 7:01 p.m.

Agenda approval: Anderson motion, Kleen second. Approved.

Approval of past month's minutes: Kleen motion to approve from both regular and special meeting, Anderson second. Approved with change of Pam Jordan "presiding" to "via phone."

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: A payment of approximately \$345,000 was made to Poppema-Sikma Construction for the Pollinator Paradise addition.

Environmental education update: Programs have begun to pick up again. Kindergarten through third grade lesson plans are on the website, and fourth and fifth grade are being worked on. Lower level displays have been built in to look a little more professional and to be safer for the animals. The first Pollinator Education series program will be 5:30 p.m. Feb. 22.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-Wetland project at Kenue Park: The agreement has been signed by both parties and will be recorded with the county recorder. The project will change one of the Okoboji Gold Disc Golf Course tee pads.

The dry wetland will be restored, partially in Kenue Park and partially on the neighboring Peterson farmland. The wetland will be approximately 1 acre and drains into Center Lake.

-NAWCA Partner Contribution Statement: We will contribute \$153,000 --- funded by a REAP grant --- to the Reeds Run project. Kleen motion to approve, Anderson second. Approved.

-Nature Center Road name change petition: A donor brought in the idea to change the road name to Nature Center Road. It is currently 41st Street, 170th Street and County Home Road. This would make the road one name instead of three. Sorenson has attempted to talk to emergency management but Mike Ehret was not in the office. There are not many residents living along the road, so hopefully that will not be a problem. Anderson said that beyond signage, name changes also have to go through a database update so addresses are also changed online. Sorenson asked if the board thought a road name change was appropriate. Anderson motion to approve the petition in favor of a name change, Gronstal second. Approved.

Operations and facility update

-Recycle center: Electronics recycling of TVs is still expensive, and the large box TVs are not dwindling in number. White goods will be picked up in February or March because the stockpile has gotten quite large. The chipping company will be coming to continue chipping brush. More trees will be brought in as state park renovations in the area get underway this spring.

Anderson brought up the issue of the need of a countywide recycling program. Jordan said she has also heard this come up lately.

-County Home building: Sorenson does not have news about the future of the former Pride Group building. He talked to the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors, which agreed to pay for the approximately \$80,000 asbestos abatement in the building. Poppema-Sikma would also be available after the Pollinator Paradise project to work on the county home building project, if donor funds become available.

Approval of expenses: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation send a letter requesting \$350, \$50 more than the \$300 donation given last year. Each dollar beyond \$300 will be matched by the Ernest and Florence Sargent Family Foundation. Kleen motion to pay bills, including that donation, Anderson second. Approved.

General discussion

-The trees are being cut down at the Reeds Run project off of Big Spirit Lake.

-The golf course formerly owned by the Inn at Okoboji will be turned into a park, according to Explore Okoboji. People have speculated and asked if it will be given to the county to run, but Sorenson has not had contact with the owners of that property. Sorenson said if there is a plan put in place and it is given to county conservation to care for, there would need to be an endowment to fund maintaining the area.

-The Horseshoe Bend tubing hill opened for the first time Feb. 10-11, after snow was moved on to the tube hill with the RCC loader.

Kleen motion to adjourn, Gronstal second. Approved. Adjourn at 7:49 p.m.