

Dickinson County Conservation Board

2279 170th St., Okoboji

7 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Chair: Willia Mueske

Vice chair: Eric Stoll

Board members: Joan Gronstal, Kathy Kleen, Steve Anderson

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan, via phone

Call to order 7:04 p.m.

Agenda approval: Gronstal motion, Anderson second. Approved.

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

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County minutes: The accounts between the accountant and the foundation records have been corrected. Some funds that were donated to Pollinator Paradise were not earmarked and put into the general account and need to be earmarked. Payments for the addition were sent to contractors.

Sorenson brought up the need for a fundraiser and members were encouraged to bring ideas to the May meeting.

A payment was made to Kramer, who also does the Omaha Children's Museum, and \$30,000 for the first design proposal was sent.

The foundation's Pride Group project is a finalist for the Okoboji Foundation grant and will present Thursday.

A Bank Midwest Community Fund grant application will be submitted for Pollinator Paradise.

The foundation agreed to cover \$75 per household along the road if the name is changed to Nature Center Road.

Environmental education update: School programs will be held at the Abbie Gardner Cabin before it officially opens on Memorial Day weekend. There is a new osprey pole and camera.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

Memorandum of understanding between Dickinson County Conservation and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation: An agreement that states that the conservation board is interested in buying a piece of ground north of the Saddle Club land, located on both sides of the Little Sioux River. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will purchase the land with the idea that the conservation board

will purchase it in the future. It was appraised at approximately \$49,000 per acre, and the owner will sell it at \$46,000 per acre for 66 acres.

This parcel will connect the Little Foote Forest and Saddle Club land and another piece of land in the strip along the Little Sioux River.

Mueske asked if the land is not usable why would the conservation board want it? Anderson said the Saddle Club land will be used as a match to purchase this and the other piece of land. Anderson said these are the corridors that protect water quality, improve habitat and are helpful for wildlife. He added that he has similar wet acres that take minimal maintenance.

“So it’s part of a bigger picture?” Kleen said.

Sorenson added that part of the long-range plan created four years ago had a goal of purchasing a corridor along the Little Sioux River to protect the river watershed.

Gronstal motion to enter the agreement, contingent upon purchase of the second piece of land that will assure a connection between DCCB areas, Stoll second. Approved.

County home update: Asbestos removal is taking place. The building is being wrapped in plastic, and scraping will begin next week. Contractors have given several different ideas of how best to utilize the building and/or land as a lodge or shelter. The asbestos removal most likely will not be done until June, and construction most likely would be 2019.

The CFDC does have verbal commitments for \$550,000 toward the project.

Horseshoe Bend: Sorenson has met with an engineer who said he could call around and look for a used snow machine, to which Sorenson said that could be done in house. Snow would have to be made and then let dry, so it would be made at the bottom, and then a tractor can move the snow onto the hill.

In the butterfly flyway, trees have been taken down and the CFDC is being reimbursed for its investment in the project.

Operations and facility update

Recycling center: There is no outlet for chipping, so the company wants to charge \$575 per hour for chipping. Sorenson and the Dickinson County Landfill Commission decided to instead burn in small piles to alleviate smoke and keep the fire away from the leaf pile, which caused the issue last year. A neighbor is not pleased that there is burning going on again, and Sorenson has tried to address the issue and the safety precautions being taken. The burning is legal, and Sorenson double-checked that laws have not changed, and they have not.

Summer hours began April 1, so the recycling center is now open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Horseshoe Bend shop: A change order was put in for a window from the office into the shop. Work was supposed to start last week but was not, due to weather.

Abbie Gardner Agreement: This is the annual agreement to pay the Abbie Gardner Cabin docents in partnership with the Iowa Historical Society which will reimburse salary. Anderson motion, Kleen second. Approved.

County wellness incentive program: The county has a wellness program that gives the county a health insurance discount if employees participate.

Approval of expenses: Kleen motion to approve bills, Gronstal second. Approved.

General discussion

-There was a misprint in the Dickinson County News that the DCCB has been contacted about taking on the green space at the former Inn at Okoboji, and that was incorrect. The DCCB has not been contacted about this property.

Gronstal motion to adjourn, Anderson second. Adjourn at 8:04 p.m.