

Dickinson County Conservation Board

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

7 p.m. May 8, 2018

Chair: Willia Mueske

Board members: Steve Anderson, Kathy Kleen

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan, arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Call to order at 7:01 p.m.

Agenda approval: Anderson motion, Kleen second. Approved.

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

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County: The CFDC meets Monday, May 14, 2018. Because May started on a Tuesday, the CFDC meeting is after the DCCB meeting this month.

Environmental education update: May is field trip season. Estherville Lincoln Central cancelled field trips due to lack of contact time with students due to snow days. The trumpeter swans are also back in the Kenue Park wetland after visiting the Pearson Lakes Art Center wetland.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-County Home update: A new design has been created with bathrooms moved to the middle of the two rentable areas, so if two parties were going on simultaneously, both would be able to access the restrooms. Asbestos removal is continuing.

Operations and facility update

-Recycling center: Appliances are still on site and have not been picked up by Shine Bros. Kolbeck has been asked to come back to chip brush, but the chipping has not been scheduled yet. Sorenson went to the Dickinson County Landfill Commission meeting to provide four options of dealing with brush and avoid burning it. Option 1: Stop taking brush. Option 2: Increase household assessment to cover chipping costs. Option 3: Raise fees for green waste dumping to cover the cost of chipping. Brush rates for the cities bringing in brush would increase dramatically. Option 4: Purchase a scale for approximately \$100,000, weigh brush and charge by weight.

In the meantime, Sorenson will address making sure any possible burning is 100 percent legal. Anderson also suggested putting up a row of evergreen trees as a buffer around the property.

-Horseshoe Bend shop: No work has been done on the new maintenance building. When the snow melted, the area for the shop flooded because there was no tube underneath the road to allow for drainage. The problem is that \$300,000 is budgeted for fiscal year 2017-18, because the shop was supposed to be halfway done by June 15. Any payments in this fiscal year will be paid out of the Rural Basic Fund, because it cannot roll over. Then anything that rolls over can still be used in the fiscal year 2018-19 with a budget amendment.

-Pollinator design workshop: The Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County has contracted with a design company in Cincinnati, OH, and a planning workshop is scheduled for May 22-23 at the Dickinson County Nature Center. The meeting will be with staff members, and board members and foundation members are also invited.

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

General discussion

-Sorenson presented the road name change to Nature Center Road to the 9-1-1 board and received some positive and negative comments. There was not a quorum at the meeting, so no decision was made. Sorenson will return to the May 15 meeting to present to the rest of the board. Even if the 9-1-1 board says "No" to the name change, the ultimate decision is up to the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors. However, Sorenson would like to have the 9-1-1 board's support for the project.

-There is an easement with the Department of Natural Resources on the Okoboji Foundation wetland along Highway 71, north of the Pearson Lakes Art Center wetland. There is a possible developer looking at purchasing the property and putting homes along the wetland, but the conservation board would like to see the wetland protected. Sorenson is looking to talk to the Okoboji Foundation.

-Sorenson will be on vacation the first part of June.

Adjournment: Motion by Anderson, Kleen second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:05 p.m.