

Dickinson County Conservation Board

Regular meeting

6 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Dickinson County Nature Center

Presiding chair: Eric Stoll

Board members: Kathy Kleen, Steve Anderson

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Others: Pam Jordan

Call to order at 6 p.m.

Tour of Westport Park delayed. The hog confinement project across the street has been delayed as the bottom has to be a foot and a half higher than the flood plain. Lee went to an animal confinement meeting in Spencer about legislation. Steve Anderson sent e-mails to David Johnson and Megan Hess, and Johnson wants to meet. The board hopes to do a Westport Park tour when Johnson is in the area.

Agenda approval: Kleen motion, Anderson second. Approved unanimous.

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

Executive director's comments: Sorenson thanked his staff for help with the transition at recycling center. The board discussed the osprey web camera falling.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: The foundation will be receiving more LaVonne Foote estate money but the group is not sure when. The Foote memorial statue will be built by Bill Lieb and the group is hoping to keep it less than \$5,000. It will be set by the trail. Pam Jordan asked about verbage on the statue, and that has yet to be discussed. Brett Morris has resigned as a foundation member.

Environmental education: Naturalists need to be certified in water safety for the kayaking program. The bee hives, both indoor and outdoor, are going well. A Bee Celebration Day will be 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 21. Swans are getting settled and will be released on the wetland soon. The Earth Day Celebration and Wings and Wetlands both went well. The naturalists are busy with the field trip season.

Yvonne Taylor wants to step back from Kayak A Wetland and renting her kayaks to us. Jordan suggested the board starts to purchase its own kayaks and trailer. What are the long-term goals? Do we need to pare down the Kayak A Wetland program so it's easier to hear and more educational? Kleen suggested to look deeper into it before making investments.

Operations and facility update:

- 1. Recycling Center:** Mike Weiss and John Walters are no longer employed at the recycling center. The board is in the process of hiring seasonal help there. The landfill commission is out of money and the waste reduction fund is also almost out of funds. No one is certified to demanufacture. Judy Bissell is hazardous-material certified but has never dealt with it and is

not comfortable. A business is starting demanufacturing white goods about a block away and has asked to get white goods from the recycling center to demanufacture. Kleen said if he's going to do that, we need to step away. We want to encourage people to recycle but not take away from a business. Expenditures there are \$20,000 over revenue, and that's not including salary. Lee is not sure how the recycling center will stay funded. Right now it's the landfill commission's decision whether to reduce hours.

- a. Origins of recycling center: The goal was to have a green waste site in 2001 or 2002 to get people to stop burning around the lake. The only site approved by the DNR is where the recycling center now is. Cities were to then haul down there. Green waste was being mixed so a part-time person moved down there. Then other recyclables were identified.
 - b. Stoll wants to have a joint meeting with the landfill commission this month.
2. **Job descriptions:** Naturalist I and Community Relations Coordinator under Naturalist II so Karess Knudtson is now eliminated from getting comp time. Anderson motion, Kleen second. Approval unanimous.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

1. **Zimmer Track completion:** The board needs to set up a name and a ribbon cutting ceremony.
2. **Set up names for new properties in June**
3. **REAP Grant for Mill Creek (Knudtson property):** Stakes are set out for fence. The grant is due Aug. 15 for property. The REAP grant will need a 25 percent match.
4. **Horseshoe Bend Area:** The master plan proposal was \$20,000, and Sorenson told RDG of Des Moines that it was too expensive.

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

Next board meeting set for June 10. Public meeting set for June 11.

Milford shop: Kleen asked about the Milford shop. Lee told the county that the board was not told there would be costs involved. The board will have three bays.

Creating playscape with stumps outside the nature center.

David Booth asked about bringing to the board about buying a \$4,000 toolbox. No one approved.

Anderson move to adjourn, Kleen second. Adjourn at 7:29 p.m.