

Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting minutes

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014

Presiding chair: Willia Mueske

Board members: Steve Anderson, Kathy Kleen, Joan Gronstal

Employees present: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth, Karess Knudtson

Others present: Pam Jordan

Call to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mueske. Kleen motion, Gronstal second to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes: Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Motion carried.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County: Balances were read. Membership is now at 203. Karess will give a presentation in October about her Michigan naturalist trip, and she will also present at the conservation board meeting. The CFDC approved joining the Iowa Great Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Pam Jordan requested more information on the minutes from secretary Erika Leupold. The foundation discussed ending the landscape project with Oleson Landscaping; a letter was given to Lee Sorenson about formally accepting the final pieces of the landscape project.

Environmental education update: The Bee & Butterfly Festival was a success, with more than 500 people tallied. Vendors had successful evenings, and feedback has been positive. Two hundred monarchs were tagged, and the additional 100 were released. Fall field trips are coming up. The deadline for Vacation Okoboji is the end of October, so a schedule for next year will be released soon. Visitor numbers record 1,747 people in August, and 1,037 people visited the Westport Schoolhouse this summer. We also have an electronic guestbook, so e-mails now directly go into our e-mail system.

Operations and facility update

- 1. Naming rights policy:** A change had formerly been recommended that if the INHF recommended a name it would be approved, and also has been added that if \$1,000 is donated a name will be added to the donor board. That will be the only recognition for people. Anderson motion, Gronstal second. Motion carried.
- 2. Needs assessment:** Jane Goeken has scheduled focus groups for Sept. 15. A report should come by the end of September, and she will meet with the board in October. One of the issues brought up may be renting the outdoors.
- 3. Management Agreement for Trails:** Have not heard from Jean Martin – tabled.
- 4. Recycling Center update:** Brush is now mulched, and mulch will be sold. Hazardous material clean-up may be a five-digit number, but the amount is unknown. A high estimate will be sent. Paul Arnold is done Sept. 15, but he will be kept on the payroll in case he is needed in the future. Hours will change to 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Summer hours will include 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday to help those who work.
- 5. Acceptance of landscaping project from CFDC:** The landscaping project is complete, and the contract with Oleson Landscaping is complete, so the landscaping is now turning over the to the conservation board. Kleen motion to accept, Anderson second. Motion carried.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

1. **Tour of areas:** Another notice will be sent out. The board of supervisors did not have a consensus yet on what day would work.
2. **Acceptance of land from Dickinson County Board of Supervisors:** Jordan will bring materials next month. Tabled until October. The board has several small lots that it wants to give to the conservation board to manage.

Approval of expenses: Anderson motion, Kleen second. Motion carried.

Director's evaluation: Sorenson has met with Stoll, but tabled until Stoll is in attendance.

General discussion: Kleen asked about the deer hunting lottery at Horseshoe Bend. They have discussed changing the policy there, but until the needs assessment is out no decision will be made.

Anderson said a county tree reserve has come out of the budget, but if we're not going to fund it we need to send a letter. If a place did not meet federal regulations, this budget would help cost-share to put trees on the property. Some trees will not surviving though.

The REAP grant from the Knudtson property was not funded.

Joan Gronstal will attend the board member conference with Sorenson.

One tree totaled two vehicles during a storm last month, the Ford Escape and the Chevy Blazer. No other vehicle can be purchased until a budget amendment.

Sorenson visited with the board of supervisors about The Pride Group, but did not get good responses from people there.

Ag leases were terminated for farmland that was being used by Horseshoe Bend and Judd Wildlife Area.

Dickinson County Endowment Fund grant was fully funded for \$6,200 for the Butterfly Garden and a shade structure there.

A hog confinement has been proposed southwest of Horseshoe Bend. The board of supervisors had a public meeting today and another is scheduled 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, in the community building. It meets regulation, so there is not much anyone can do to stop the project. The location is one mile south and one mile west of Horseshoe Bend.

Adjourn at 8:49 p.m. Anderson move, Gronstal second. Carried.