

## Dickinson County Conservation Board minutes

7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11

Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji

**Chairperson:** Willia Mueske

**Vice chair:** Kathy Kleen

**Board members:** Steve Anderson, Eric Stoll, Joan Gronstal left at 8:36 p.m.

**Employees:** Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

**Others:** Heathers Jobst, INHF; Joe Ulman, SLPA; Todd Bishop, IDNR

**Call to order at 7:01 p.m.**

**Stoll motion to approve agenda, Kleen second. Approved.**

**Kleen motion to approve minutes, Gronstal second. Approved.**

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update:** Shirley Rasmussen was reappointed for a three-year term. Vice president JoAnn Sackett stepped down, and board member Ron Williams was appointed. Board member Barbara Falk resigned. Jordan received a receipt from the Endow Iowa Fund for the Dickinson County Conservation Board, but it was the CFDC that made the deposit, not the conservation board.

**Environmental education update:** The nature center is trying to get a male swan to pair with the female, rehabilitated swan at the Kenue Park wetland. It should be arriving shortly. The Animal Adventures camp was successful, but other camps did not meet the minimum number of participants. The order for the osprey camera to be installed on the nature center had to be cancelled because it was never received. Plans are in place for the Bee & Butterfly Festival for Friday, Sept. 4.

### Operations and facility update

- A. Recycling center:** The sewage tank has a leak, so plans for installing water and sewer lines are being looked into. The brush pile has grown, and it will need to be chipped soon.
- B. Schoolhouse roof:** Three bids were received for wood shakes, and Hahn Roofing had the lowest bid at \$12,718. The CFDC will pay for half the project. Stoll motion to accept the bid, Gronstal second. Approved.
- C. IRVM grants:** Vegetation specialist Aric Ping submitted three grants from the Living Roadway Trust Fund and they were approved --- \$699 for fire protective equipment, \$2,879 for broadcast seeder, \$8,000 for Polaris Ranger UTV.

### Dickinson County Conservation Board

- A. Land acquisition:** Jobst, Bishop and Ulman came to talk about a project on Big Spirit Lake. Before the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation moves forward with a property purchase, Jobst needs to find a partner that would own the land. The spot is 43 acres either in CRP or buffer program in lieu of farming. Wetlands have been restored and enhanced. Ulman said

conservation entities have talked about how to keep it in a conservation status. The Spirit Lake Protective Association would like to work with another partner that will have plans to purchase the property from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and would help fundraise.

-Money is a concern, because the board is still looking for funding for the Knudtson property which is still owned by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, but Jobst said the INHF is not concerned about the DCCB not being able to find funding or she would not present the opportunity to purchase more land.

-Ulman said the SLPA has spoken to homeowners around the project, and both the homeowners and Clean Water Alliance have spoken positively about the project.

-Jobst knows the appraised value of the land, but it has not been released publicly yet.

-Anderson is concerned about the trees growing on the property and how they could be controlled.

-The wetlands on the property are protecting runoff to at least one local homeowner.

-Bishop said this property does not fit with the mission of the DNR, especially because of its proximity to house, and would be willing to help with a NAWCA grant and possibly with other state funding sources.

-Jobst sees it as grant and private fundraising dollars, not a financial investment from the DCCB.

**B. Milford Woods:** Kleen motion to hire Bolton & Menk to survey Milford Woods' property boundaries, Gronstal second. Approved.

**C. REAP meeting:** Three people made the meeting to approve the REAP grant application, and Sorenson has accepted the position as chair.

**8. Approval of expenses:** Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

## 9. General discussion

**A. Milford cabin:** An offer has been given to move a cabin to Horseshoe Bend, but Sorenson does not think that the logs will stay together if moved. The 35-by-70 foot building was a dude ranch, and the family wants the cabin off the property. Sorenson discussed a maintenance easement on the property to the DCCB Milford Woods property. Sorenson will look into the cost of moving the cabin.

**B. Horseshoe Bend bridge:** Additional support has possibly come forward for the Horseshoe Bend bridge project. Sorenson will look into getting an engineer to plan the project and get a cost estimate.

**C. Kenue Park barn:** Sorenson asked Bolton & Menk to see if we could figure out a plan for the barn, but the company does not do structural engineering. Sorenson will ask a proposal from a structural engineer that Bolton & Menk has suggested.

**D. Plan:** Kleen asked what the long-range plan for the conservation board is and what came from the needs assessment. Kleen would like to set up a potluck/retreat for the board to discuss the five- or 10-year plan for the DCCB.

**E.** The district meeting will be held at the nature center in November.

**Adjournment motion by Anderson, second Kleen. Adjourn at 9:10 p.m.**