

Dickinson County Conservation Board minutes

7 p.m. July 14, 2015

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

Board chair: Willia Mueske

Vice chair: Kathy Kleen

Board members: Steve Anderson depart at 7:49 p.m., Eric Stoll, Joan Gronstal arrive at 7:37 p.m.

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Other: Pam Jordan

Call to order 7 p.m.

Agenda approval: Anderson motion, Stoll second. Approved.

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

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: The CFDC agreed to enter \$10,000 in the Okoboji Foundation endowment. Membership chair Shirley Rasmussen would like to step down, and the board would like to change the by-laws to divide the position between members. The board approved paying half of the cost of putting on a new roof at the Westport Schoolhouse.

Environmental education update: Day camps are held this week. July 16 is the registration deadline for Grandpa, Grandma & Me! and Backpacking Adventures will be held Aug. 10-12.

REAP grant: A REAP grant application is being submitted to purchase the Knudtson property south of Milford from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Stoll motion to approve submission of the grant, Anderson second. Approved.

Operations and facility update

- 1. Recycling center:** Appliances have a better price during the winter, so they most likely won't be recycled until January. An inspection asked for insurance liability forms from contractors, although contract labor has not been utilized before. Paint drying tables will need to be replaced next year. People have brought in curlyleaf pondweed, but it is illegal to transport those invasive species. The recycling center is allowed to accept the weeds, but residents are not allowed to move the weeds. They need to compost the weeds in their own yard.
- 2. Schoolhouse roof:** Table until more research on the visual that is desired is done.
- 3. LRTF update:** Living Roadway Trust Fund grant applications were submitted, but results have not been released.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

- 1. Milford Woods:** The issue regarding entrance to the property's easement has been left with the county attorney. A special meeting needs to be set up between the two parties and attorneys.

2. **Ainsworth-Orleans Beach:** The bathroom construction is still scheduled for fall. A portion of the pervious pavers have been cleaned with a power washer. Sorenson plans to utilize the RCC firetruck to power wash the pavers and replace with chip-rock. The boardwalk has been replaced with composite. The Spirit Lake Protective Association wants to replace the boat dock at the ramp, but it needs to be heavy-duty enough to withstand the waves on Big Spirit Lake.
3. **Spring Run Shooting Range:** A grant was submitted to the Dickinson County Endowment Fund to help with the project. Pheasants Forever may be able to donate the \$5,000 which was requested from the organization, if the area will be surveilled.
4. **Horseshoe Bend master plan:** Bolton & Menk brought in the final plan, with corrections made as requested. The project needs to be done in phases.

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

General discussion

-A snowmaker estimated that for 1.7 acres of sledding room no more than 370,000 gallons will be needed to cover the area with 1 foot of snow. One snow machine should be able to cover this area.

-Ron Walker chaired the REAP committee but has retired, and Sorenson has temporarily taken over setting up the next REAP committee meeting. The next meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, at Arnolds Park City Hall.

-Landscapeer tore down a piece of siding on the nature center, and it still needs to be fixed.

-Kleen would like to visit the Scharnberg Park cabins in Clay County.

Adjournment at 8:44 p.m. Motion by Gronstal, second by Kleen. Approved.