

Dickinson County Conservation Board



Meeting Minutes

7 p.m., March 10, 2015

Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279 170th Street, Okoboji, IA

Chair: Willia Mueske

Board members: Steve Anderson, Eric Stoll, Joan Gronstal

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Liaison: Pam Jordan

Absent: Kathy Kleen

1. Call to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Agenda approval.

Gronstal motion, Anderson second. Approved.

3. Approval of January and February minutes.

Gronstal motion to approve with changed date on February minutes, Stoll second. Approved.

4. Conservation Foundation Of Dickinson County update

Two new members were approved to the board: Barbara Falk and Leah Streeter. Steve Christensen of Spirit Lake was also a guest and possible applicant for the board. In order for the foundation to qualify for the Endow Iowa 25 percent tax credit, \$10,000 will be put into the Greater Des Moines Foundation.

Mycountyparks.com is adding a foundation section to its new website so foundations throughout the state may contact each other.

5. Environmental education update

Displays are underway. We Pedal Clean Water bike ride is set for June 13, coinciding with the Arnolds Park anniversary celebration this summer.

6. Operations and facility update

- **Recycling Center:** Appliances are being demanufactured, the process was slowed as they had frozen to the ground during the winter. Prices are changing for green waste, and new brochures will be printed. There may be an influx, because the Spirit Lake site is being guarded and must have proof of residency.
- **Vehicle purchases:** Two Ford Escapes were ordered and should be in by April 1.
- **IRVM:** Seventeen resumes have been received, and Sorenson will review applications next week. Interviews will be set up soon. The weed commissioner will continue through the year under conservation's headship. Spraying will continue through the road department this spring, because the conservation board will need to purchase a sprayer truck to use.
- **Seasonal Staff:** The recycling center has hired a seasonal recycling technician. Hours will be about 40 hours per week in the summer and 12-16 hours per week in the off-season. Conservation aide will be re-advertised later in the spring to try and draw in college students. Interviews for the naturalist intern will be set up soon.
- **Board meeting policy:** A board meeting may be held with a member via phone if it is recorded why the person is not in physical attendance.
- **Spring Board Member Conference:** The next board member conference is April 18 in Dubuque.
- **Special Use Permit:** For the Earth Day Celebration, West O Beer and Little Swan Lake Winery were invited but may not sell on the property without a sales tax permit and proof of liability insurance. They will not be selling this year, but vendors for Bee & Butterfly Festival will need to provide these forms this fall. Gronstal move to adopt the special use permit, Anderson second.

A space is left for a certain amount of liability insurance policy that will name both Dickinson County and the Dickinson County Conservation Board as "additional insured."

Motion approved.

7. Dickinson County Conservation Board Areas

a. HSB tubing future: The county engineer wants an agreement signed for the tubing hill area for a road project. However, cost to move the tubing hill could be \$300,000-\$400,000. A decision must be made as to whether the tubing hill should be moved or should it be discontinued. Jordan said a joint special meeting with the board of supervisors may be necessary. The board will put together a plan for Horseshoe Bend's future to bring to such a meeting.

b. HSB bridge contract: A contract for 2008 was signed with Calhoun and Burns of West Des Moines to come in to diagnosis what is wrong with the pedestrian bridge. The board wanted to void the previous contract and coordinate with the road bridge project. The pedestrian bridge was helpful because the paths allowed for a circular trek through Horseshoe Bend.

c. Milford Woods: The conservation board now owns Milford Woods. Local homeowner wants the easement to the Milford Woods to be private instead of open to the public because of liability issues, although the homeowner would not have any liability issues. The issue has been brought to an attorney.

The area does need named, but the wooded area does need to be named after LaVonne Foote. The other parcel could be named after anything else.

d. Kenue Park well closure: A price is needed for the well to be closed. The county does have a grant program for well closure, but it is only \$400.

e. Schoolhouse roof: The roof will be contracted out for about \$8,000 in the spring.

f. Spring Run Shooting range: A plan is in place to update the shooting range. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative has quoted about \$14,000 to putting electric out to the range.

8. Approval of Expenses: Change City of Spirit Lake to \$37.12, one month's charge. Stoll motion, Anderson second. Approved.

9. General Discussion: Under his Iowa Lakes Sanitary District hat, Anderson mentioned the permit for discharge into Milford Creek. In order to comply with the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, it would cost \$1 million in upgrades, but the state would like phosphorous levels to be even lower than required for a total cost of \$7 million in upgrades. When the lake overflows to a certain level, it actually releases more phosphorous into the creek than the sewer plant. Another option to help with the dissolved oxygen levels would be to buy buffer zones and plant shade trees and then offer those pieces of land to the conservation board to manage. Another option would be to discharge into the Little Sioux River, which would ultimately lead Milford Creek drying up.

10. Adjournment. Anderson motion, Gronstal second. Approved and adjourned at 9:11 p.m.