

Dickinson County Conservation Board
Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279 170th St., Okoboji
7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2016

President: Kathy Kleen

Vice president: Joan Gronstal

Board members: Steve Anderson, Willia Mueske

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth, Mary Petersen

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda approval: Motion by Anderson, second by Mueske. Approved.

Approval of past month's minutes as well as secondary meeting minutes: A meeting is set with Bolton & Menk for April 15 to draw up plans for Horseshoe Bend Winter Sports Area changes. The road project and tubing hill changes would still be planned for 2018, but an agreement with the roads department would need to be reached prior to that.

Anderson motion to approve the minutes, Mueske second. Approved.

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County update: Shirley Rasmussen resigned from the foundation board.

Environmental education update: New naturalist Mary Petersen is in attendance to meet the board members. The Okoboji osprey nesting camera is up again on the nest outside the nature center. The Earth Day Celebration is 4-8 p.m. Friday, April 15.

Operations and facility update

Recycling center: A stainless steel table was dented and given to the recycling center for free when the new one was shipped. The hazardous materials room has been redone. The part-time technician has resigned, and the position is open for applications. The bathroom bid has been secured and construction should start soon. The hazardous materials area also needs a shower with a drain, and that will be added as well. The project bill will be sent to the board of supervisors. The building does already have septic piping.

Kleen requested better/more signage for the recycling center, both off of Highway 71 and at the entrance on County Road A34. The gate will be moved back as well to allow for easier access for semis. Anderson asked if the entrance could also be widened with a double gate coming together instead of one gate at the entrance.

Earth Day Celebration: The event will be 4-8 p.m. Friday, April 15, featuring non-alcoholic cocktails, West O, Okoboji Brewing Company and Little Swan Lake winery as well as actors portraying famous conservationists.

Abbie Gardner Cabin agreement: This is the same agreement with the Iowa Historical Society signed in 2015 to staff the cabin through the summer season. Docents Jack Jones and Ed Purdy will both be returning for the 2016 season. Anderson motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

The cabin will be re-chinked this spring. Anyone is invited to assist with the project when the date is set.

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Horseshoe Bend joint meeting: Sorenson will meet with the county engineer and Bolton & Menk Friday to discuss the Horseshoe Bend Winter Sports Area project. A back-up plan will also be put in the agreement.

Spring Run Shooting Range update: Projected expenses have moved from \$80,000 to \$215,000, assuming borrow is taken from the adjoining area. However, borrow would need to be taken carefully in order to not create a lowland that would become a wetland. People have shown support for the project, but with changes those people are being directed to speak with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, which is in charge of the project.

Ainsworth-Orleans Beach bathroom: An inspection of the sewer line was completed. A manhole and concrete line will be taken out and new PVC will be piped. The restroom is still functional for this summer, and construction is anticipated to be completed this fall on the new building.

Approval of expenses: The final design was completed for a new Butterfly House, but funding for the project has changed. The AWC Foundation has asked for name recognition for the contributions to the building, and ideas are being presented to the foundation of places to honor its contribution.

Anderson motion to pay the bills, Gronstal second. Approved.

General discussion: The Powers family donated memorial funds amounting to more than \$600 to the board and CFDC.

Vegetation specialist Aric Ping and Sorenson met with the board of supervisors to discuss the IRVM program.

Roth thanked the board for the blanket sent in honor of her grandmother to her funeral the previous week from the board and staff. It was much appreciated by the Proffitt family.

Anderson motion to adjourn, Gronstal second. Adjourn at 8:17 p.m.