

**Dickinson County Conservation Board**

**2279 170<sup>th</sup> St., Okoboji**

**7 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, 2016**

**Vice chair: Joan Gronstal**

**Board members: Steve Anderson, Willia Mueske**

**Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth**

**Board liaison: Pam Jordan**

**Call to order at 7:26 p.m.**

**Agenda approval by Mueske, Anderson second. Approved.**

**Approval of last month's minutes motion by Anderson, second Mueske. Approved.**

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County:** Two new community members attended the meeting in anticipation of becoming board members. Eighty-three members have paid for the upcoming year. The foundation had about 140 paying members in the previous year.

**Environmental education update:** Free summer youth programming has exploded this summer and additional repeat programs may need to be added in the future. Nature Kids camp will be held Monday-Wednesday, July 18-20. Honey was taken from the indoor beehive and is for sale in the Nature Store.

**Operations and facility update:**

**Recycling center:** The water for the sewer system is hooked up and working. The plumber will hopefully be finished with work tomorrow (July 13) and the bathroom should be working by the end of the week. The road to the recycling center has been widened and an electronic gate system is being put in.

Part-time staff has been hired. Sorenson will look into getting an automated system for appliances to help with calculations. The chipping machine company has had issues with equipment break-downs on the site.

**Fall board member conference:** The fall Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards board member conference will be held in Fort Dodge.

Anderson has volunteered to run for the District 3 state board representative. Ballots were passed out for board members to vote for the district representative.

**District meeting:** Dickinson County is hosting the district conservation board meeting on Aug. 3, and board members are welcome to attend. It will begin at 10 a.m. at the Abbie Gardner Cabin shelter with a program at the Abbie Gardner Museum & Historic Site and after a lunch business meeting, employees will take a ride on the Queen II at 1 p.m.

**Conservation Board areas**

**Horseshoe Bend sled hill proposal:** Bolton & Menk created a new proposal for moving the tubing hill at Horseshoe Bend to the east side of the property. The new plan was sent to the county engineer, who said he would bring it to the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors. Anderson wants to make sure that the project will come from the county engineer's budget, due to the road project that is creating the need to move the tube hill, but that the conservation board will be in charge of the tubing hill project.

This proposal does not include the new warming house, bathrooms, etc., because Bolton & Menk does not create building plans. Jordan suggested having a special board meeting with the board of supervisors, conservation board and county engineer at the new Horseshoe Bend site to talk about the budget and project parameters.

Sorenson will meet with Cannon, Moss & Brygger for the warming house plans as well as the new maintenance building plans being put together at Horseshoe Bend.

Anderson motion to submit the proposal to the board of supervisors as the recommended plan for the moving of the tubing hill, Mueske seconded. Approved. The proposal will be given to the board of supervisors to be discussed at the Aug. 9 meeting.

**Knudtson property:** The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation sent out a letter to Dickinson County members as well as another letter to Milford residents asking for funding for the Knudtson property, called the Milford Creek Wildlife Area in the letter. This will hopefully raise money that will lower the amount needed to pay for the property enough to succeed in receiving a REAP grant to cover the rest of the cost this year.

**Ainsworth-Orleans Beach bathroom update:** The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is waiting for an archaeological study to come back, and if there are no problems the project will move forward.

A 4,000-gallon sewage spill occurred near the beach this week, and no swimming was recommended there for 24 hours. The Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District will send out a press release regarding the spill.

**Approval of expenses:** Mueske motion, Anderson second. Approved.

### **General discussion**

**Methodist church acquisition:** The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is still pursuing a piece of property on the east side of Big Spirit Lake that the conservation board has discussed maintaining in the future after the property has been purchased. Anderson suggested that a caveat in maintaining the property would be that the INHF would first clear the wetland area from scrub trees.

**Little Sioux Savanna:** The Little Sioux Savanna has not had any issues with public access in recent months. The conservation board has directional signs for the new properties and is waiting on the county road crew to put them up in the rights-of-way.

**Shooting range:** Chris Van Gorp, Iowa DNR, said lead reclamation at the Spring Run Shooting Range should be done within the next two weeks. It has been requested that the berms be replaced after the lead reclamation so shooting can continue as the project is completed in phases.

**Barn:** The barn in Kenue Park has been emptied of all except for some patio furniture.

Anderson motion to adjourn, Mueske second. Approved. Adjourn at 8:43 p.m.