

Dickinson County Conservation Board

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m., April 11, 2017

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

Chair: Joan Gronstal, present via phone
Vice chair: Steve Anderson, presiding
Board members: Kathy Kleen, Eric Stoll
Employees: Kiley Roth, Bryanna Kuhlman
Board liaison: Pam Jordan, arrived at 7:18 p.m.

Call to order at 7 p.m.

1. **Agenda approval:** Motion by Kleen, Stoll second. Approved.
2. **Approval of past month's minutes:** Motion by Stoll, Kleen second. Approved.
3. **Conservation Foundation Of Dickinson County update:** The foundation talked about its logo but decided to stay with its old logo.
4. **Environmental education update:** The summer naturalist intern has been hired and will begin duties May 15. The naturalist position will be posted this month and hopefully will be hired this summer. It will remain open until filled.
 - a. **Earth Day Celebration:** The Earth Day Celebration will be 6 p.m. Friday, April 21, at the Pearson Lakes Art Center in Okoboji. The event is free and for all ages.

5. Dickinson County Conservation Board Areas

-Saddle Club Land Donation/adjacent land: Director Lee Sorenson and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation met with the Saddle Club regarding a land donation. A requirement in the agreement will say that if the county decides not to keep the land that it will revert back to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. An agreement was also reached that the county would maintain the horse arena for 10 years, and after that period it could continue to be maintained as an arena or closed. Kleen asked what maintenance expectations would be, and it sounds like it would be grading the arena and mowing. An agreement will be put together regarding the donation details and expectations.

-Horseshoe Bend shop: The maintenance technicians are working on designs for the shop. The bid process will continue with help from the county attorney.

-Pollinator Paradise Update: Sorenson, foundation president Becky Peters and donors have been working on fundraising. The project is a finalist for an Okoboji Foundation grant, for which \$100,000 has been requested.

-Knudtson property naming: It was decided to wait and make the grand opening during the Milford Days sesquicentennial in July. The naming will be discussed next month.

-REAP: Kleen motion to approve appraisal agreement, Stoll second. Approved.

-Okoboji Foundation Land: The Spirit Lake Protective Association has also put in a grant request for \$100,000 to the Okoboji Foundation for the Reeds Run project.

6. Operations and facility update

a. **Recycle Center:** No discussion. The monthly report was submitted.

b. **Future of Pride Group facility:** Jordan reported the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors received a notification that the Pride Group would be vacating the building as of July 1. A discussion by the board of supervisors followed as to what to do with the building. Kleen would like Sorenson to craft a letter to the supervisors about

what the board would like to see happen/not happen at the building so that the building would not impede the mission of Kenue Park.

7. Approval of Expenses: Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved.

8. General Discussion: No discussion

9. Adjournment: Kleen motion, Stoll second. Adjourn at 8:15 p.m.