

Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017

Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji

Chair: Joan Gronstal

Vice chair: Steve Anderson arrive at 7:05 p.m.

Board members: Kathy Kleen, Willia Mueske, Eric Stoll

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

Board liaison: Pam Jordan

Call to order 7:03 p.m.

Agenda approval: Mueske motion to approve agenda, Kleen second. Approved.

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

Tour of Pride Group building: The board took a tour of the county building formerly leased by the Pride Group of Okoboji next to Kenue Park to see the layout of the now-empty neighboring facility.

Environmental education update: The new naturalist will begin duties on Aug. 28. Sorenson, Roth and Bryanna Kuhlman took part in the Lake Park Farmers Appreciation Day and handed out honeysticks.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

-The Pioneer Park Nature Preserve grand opening was held in July and about 30 people attended.

-Jordan said part of the driving bridge by Horseshoe Bend is partially closed off by the Dickinson County engineer's office. The road project to replace that bridge no longer includes moving the tubing hill, because federal funds for the road project cannot be used to take part of Horseshoe Bend land that was paid for partially with federal grant funds.

-Jordan brought up what the county would do with a new parcel it purchased near Welch Lake for a future road project, and the board conversed about the different pieces of publicly-owned land with lake access and how the conservation board could possibly offer better lake access in the future to the public.

Operations and facility update

-Dickinson Recycling Center: The screener to take the garbage and large pieces out of the compost at the recycling center arrived but the compost has not been sifted yet.

-Horseshoe Bend shop update: The original bids for the shop were pulled because they were too high, and staff will meet with the architect to try to adjust the plans to reduce the cost. The project will be put to bid again in October or November.

-Pollinator Paradise update: Progress is going well on the new addition. Sorenson received a request to name part of the new addition after the Maser family, which has donated and headed up fundraising efforts.

-Annual report: Sorenson presented the annual fiscal year report. In 2016, there were 332 programs with 2,589 adults and 7,041 children reached. Abbie Gardner Cabin had 3,832 visitors in FY2017. Natural resource management plans have been put together for each of the county parks and areas. The total revenue for FY17 was \$69,855. Total expenses for recycling services was \$23,063.73.

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

General discussion

-A REAP meeting was held the morning of Aug. 8, and two grant applications were approved and will be submitted. The Dickinson County Trails and city of Spirit Lake is submitting a grant request for a trail segment, and the Dickinson County Conservation Board and Spirit Lake Protective Association will submit a grant request for the Reeds Run land owned currently by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The city and county requests will not overlap and are competing for separate funds.

-Polk, Linn and Dallas counties reimburse tuition for continuing education classes. Kleen said that should already be covered in the education and training service budget, which is limited.

-Vegetation specialist Aric Ping has been getting lots of calls in his position as weed commissioner for the county. All spraying is done because weeds have gone to seed already.

-There was no Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County report at the DCCB meeting because the second Monday of the month is not until Monday, Aug. 14, which is next week.

-Anderson attended the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards meeting, and the fall conference will be held in September.

Mueske motion to adjourn, Stoll second. Approved. Adjourn at 9:06 p.m.