

**Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting**

**Dickinson County Nature Center, 22785 Nature Center Road, Okoboji**

**5:15 p.m. Feb. 12, 2020**

**Vice chair:** Steve Anderson

**Board members:** Kathy Kleen and Joan Gronstal, via phone

**Employees:** Lee Sorenson, Kiley Roth

**Board liaison:** Pam Jordan and Steve Clark, via phone

**Call to order at 5:15 p.m.**

**Agenda approval:** Gronstal motion to approve, Kleen second. Approved.

**Public comment:** No public present

**Consent agenda**

**-Approval of past month's minutes**

**-Recycling report**

**-Environmental education report**

Kleen motion to approve, Gronstal second. Approved.

**Dickinson County Conservation Board areas**

**-Brooks Management plan:** The county attorney and Ahler Cooney Law Firm worked through the particulars of the Brooks Golf management plan. Brooks Management LLC has signed the contract.

Jordan asked about having a clause to get out of the contract, and Sorenson said there is a clause in the management plan that allows for termination with cause. Gronstal motion to approve the 10-year management agreement with Brooks Management LLC. Kleen second. Approved.

**-Hamdorf appraisal:** The appraisal for a piece of property connecting to Little Sioux Savanna has been returned. Sorenson is nervous about committing to a purchase when REAP and the Natural Resource Trust Fund have not been approved for the future. He would like to put the purchase on pause until legislation makes its way through the State Legislature.

Sorenson talked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and that may be a future partner.

The owner of the property seems to be OK with holding on the purchase for the time being.

**-Horseshoe Bend bridge:** The walking bridge over the Little Sioux River at Horseshoe Bend needs repaired, and it has been scheduled to be done at the same time work is being done on the 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge. A repair estimate has been quoted at \$200,000, and Sorenson isn't sure that the project is worth the money for the use that the bridge would get in the park. A donor has given approximately \$20,000 to the project, but the rest of the funding would have to be budgeted for 2021. Sorenson would also look into repairs versus costs of a new bridge.

Anderson said he would like to pause on the project and talk with the Dickinson County engineer for the timeline on the coinciding road bridge project.

### **Operations and facility update**

**-FY2020 proposed budget:** The FY2020 budget was submitted to the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors, and Sorenson has not received any opposition to it so it should be approved as is.

**Approval of expenses:** Kleen motion to pay the bills, Gronstal second. Approved.

### **General discussion**

-A bid has been received for a mussel restoration project, but it was anticipated to be around \$24,000 and was received at \$50,000. U.S. Fish & Wildlife has dealt with some other contractors in the region, and more bids will be solicited. If the bids do not get lower, the project should qualify for a Fish Habitat Grant.

-IRVM employee Doug Todey would like to start an Adopt-a-Roadway program in the county and has written up some guidelines. This program would encourage people to pick up garbage and help take care of rights-of-way in the county. Anderson said it might help to have signage up on these areas for public relations as well. Sorenson would like to try to implement the program, with board support.

-The Kenue Park lodge project is nearing completion on the interior. Details and outdoor finishes still need to be completed.

-Anderson gave an update on the sewer project running through Brooks Golf and into Kenue Park. The project has begun south of the nature center on the golf course. The Nature Center Road segment is planned to begin March 2, to be completed by the end of May. That segment will start at Lakeshore Drive and work toward the Dickinson County Nature Center.

**Adjournment:** Kleen motion to adjourn, Gronstal second. Approved. Adjourn at 5:43 p.m.