

Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting
5 p.m. October 14, 2020
Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji

Chair: Steve Anderson, arrive at 5:00 p.m.

Vice chair: Willia Mueske

Board members: Kathy Kleen via Zoom, Joan Gronstal arrived at 5:05 via Zoom

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Daria Mather

Board liaisons: Pam Jordan via Zoom, Steve Clark 5:05 Via Zoom

Call to order by Anderson at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda approval: Mueske motion, Kleen second. Approved.

Public comment: No public present

Consent agenda/items

- a. Approval of past month's minutes
- b. Recycle report
- c. Environmental education report

Kleen motion, Mueske second. Approved.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas:

a. Horseshoe Bend Bridge Repair: Sorenson contacted the Des Moines engineer for specs on bridge and hopes for a winter bidding. Ideal is to tie the horseshoe bend bridge project as the same time as the 195th project. Fish habitat grant to protect shoreline South and West of bridge. Plans now to be submitted at end of November. Will have a full year to complete.

b. Letter to IDNR regarding Orleans Beach: Sorenson drew up letter to be sent out letter to Mr. Rickerl of IDNR. Jordan asked when to expect response, if any from IDNR. Sorenson doesn't expect a response.

Will start next week on boat ramp. They will keep the ramp open as much as they can. They can keep the slip in at Templar.

Mueske motion to approve the letter to be sent to Frank Rickerl from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Kleen second. Approved.

c. Orleans Beach Board walk replacement: Diamond Concrete quoted this to do thick stamped & colored concrete sidewalk for a total price of \$9,472.00 with Diamond Concrete donating \$5,722.00. The total price will be \$3,750 for the Dickinson County Conservation Board.

The current boardwalk is damaged again from someone driving over it with an ATV and broke it again. DCCB has replaced it 4 times so this will fix the problem. Will need this project completed by the end of the calendar year for the Conservation to pay for it. Mueske motion to approve the Orleans Beach Boardwalk improvement at the cost of \$3,750, Kleen second. Approved.

d. Hamdorf Property: The REAP scoring was completed this year and the REAP grant for the Hamdorf property scored in 4th place and was rewarded approx. \$40,000. The Conservation Board rejected the reward due it makes any future grant request ineligible from state funds for this property. Sorenson recommended for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to purchase on the Conservation Board behalf. Then have them hold the property for a year to apply for the REAP grant again and then if not successful look at selling off parcels to cover the purchase price. The Heritage Foundation typically charges approx. 1.7 % interest rate.

Gronstal made a motion to move ahead with requesting the INHF purchase the property on our behalf, Mueske second. Approved.

Operations and Facility Update:

a. User Permits: tabled until next month.

Approval of Expenses: Some big expenses this month.

Kleen motion to approve the monthly expenses, Mueske second. Approved.

General Discussion:

a. Long Term Planning updated 9/1/20

Abby Gardner cabin.

Classroom put headstone down. Gentleman is upset about moving rocks near raceway. DNR thought it was appropriate. Over 100 people for rock ceremony, Mr. Plumber said no to opening bathrooms. Historical society of Des Moines, contacted by Anita Bomgaars, committee with Mr. Plumber because of concern over degradation of building. Mr. Plumber said they need to get an assessment for preservation and upkeep will be first step. Trying to get someone to get out there to look. Looking at Okobojo grant or hoping Imagine Iowa will fund.

Committee for grounds of Abby Gardner property. Want to get it back to natural prairie. Cut down some oak trees. Arnold's Park doesn't have an ordinance about prairie plants. Will have to double check about what kind of prairie mix to plant.

Arnold's Park was working on building an ADA compliant sidewalk to go around the point and lead to the Abby Gardner Park but that project has been put on hold due to funds. It is part of Arnold's Park phase 3 project but they are seeking funding. Jordan proposed writing a petition to get the project finished since it will lead to the park.

Sherwood Forest, permits have all be approved. Sorenson contacted landscape architect but they have COVID so they're not at work.

Kleen motion a motion to adjourn at 5:35 pm, Gronstal seconded. Approved.