

Dickinson County Conservation Board meeting
5 p.m. May 13, 2020
Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji

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

Vice chair: Willia Mueske via phone

Board members: Kathy Kleen via phone, Joan Gronstal via phone, Eric Stoll via phone on at 5:30 pm

Employees: Lee Sorenson

Board liaisons: Pam Jordan via phone, Steve Clark via phone

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

Agenda approval: Gronstal motion, Mueske second. Approved.

Public comment: No public present

Consent agenda/items

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

Gronstal motion, Kleen second. Approved.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas

a. Nature Center parking area: Have had it surveyed and still waiting on the plans for concrete. Have met with Alliant Energy about placing overhead lines underground and have been put on the schedule for this spring. Alliant will not install parking lot lights with underground so will need to contract an electrician to run electrical back down to the entrance for any parking area lighting. Hoping to get this done yet this spring. We will visit the funds budgeted for the nature center paving next month to see what is the best solution to budget those funds for next fiscal year.

b. Covid-19 Reopen Plans: At this time we are planning on following along with the courthouse procedures that have a tentative date of June 3rd to a phase 1 reopen. Phase 1 is pretty much the same as we are operating under now, able to set up meetings by appointment only and facilities not open to the public. Summer camps were discussed and decided that the June camps will be canceled at this time due to covid concerns.

c. HSB walking bridge/fema: Past spring with the flood the HSB walking bridge had taken some flood damage around the bridge footings we received Fema funds to help repair around those footings back to pre-flood which amounted to approx. \$8,000. Talking with the engineer about repairing the walking bridge he informed that the estimate for the repair could be around \$200,000. So discussed whether or not to kick that funding back, changing what the funding is used for or complete the original used for the funding and work on asking the Foundation to raise the funding for the bridge. At this point the Board decided to complete the repairs on the current bridge and ask the Foundation to fund raise for the bridge repairs.

Operations and facility update

a. Lodge Update: The Maser Monarch Lodge is close to being completed, Poppma Sikma is unable to get an engineer on site at the current time due to COVID-19 restrictions that they are under and the contractor. We are discussing an echo issue and looking for solutions to reduce the echo.

b. Sewer Project: Anderson updated us on the sewer line that is running down Nature Center Road. At this time all connections are made to the lodge, Nature Center and a stub out for the future for the 1 room school house area. The lift station that the Nature Center used to be on is no longer functional and discussion will take place on how to remove or fill in that station.

c. IRVM East Position: We have hired a new employee to fill the IRVM East position left open from the job position change of Doug Today. His name is Cameron Arnold and started on May 10, 2020. Today is also looking at filling 1 of the part-time positions with just a seasonal position.

Approval of expenses: Kleen motion to approve, Gronstal second. Approved.

General discussion

The engineering plans for the Ainsworth Orleans boat ramp improvement have been completed from Jacob Westergaard. Mike Hawkins is currently applying for the sovereign lands permit, once we get that permit we will place it out to public bid. This project is funded through a water access grant and the SPLA.

The HSB mussel project could possibly start in 2 weeks if the weather stays dry and the river is at acceptable river levels.

Dean from Diamond Concrete contacted me about the boardwalk at Orleans Beach asking if it would be possible if he found donations to replace the composite boardwalk with concrete, I did not see a problem with this but let him know that the conservation board is ending its contract for management of the property at the end of the year.

Adjournment: Kleen motion, Gronstal second. Approved. Adjourn at 6:08 p.m.