

Dickinson County Conservation Board Meeting
5 p.m. April 14, 2021
Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji, IA

Chair:Willia Mueske arrives at 5:00 p.m.

Vice chair: Kathy Kleen

Board members: Eric Stoll via phone, Joan Gronstal, Steve Anderson (absent)

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Daria Mather

Board liaisons: Steve Clark

Call to order by Mueske at 5:02 p.m.

Agenda approval: Kleen motioned to approve, Gronstal seconded. Approved.

Public comment: Clark's public: productive session on 4/13 for seeding on A34. Keep communication up and it'll be okay. Phasing out the haying of the ditch.

Consent agenda/items

- a. Approval of past month's minutes
- b. Recycle report
- c. Environmental education report
- d. Conservation Foundation Minutes
 - To clarify, foundation wants to hire an outside contractor to do financials. Will have a discussion.

Gronstal motion to approve the consent agenda, Kleen seconded. Approved.

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas:

- a. Fish Habitat Agreement
 - Have agreement for grant applied for in November. Will move forward with it if approved.

 - Stoll moves to approve acceptance of grant, Gronstal seconded. Approved.

- b. Sherwood Forest Agreement
 - Signed by Conservation Foundation. Keeping the Conservation Board up to date. Give land to Conservation Foundation, Foundation will gift to Conservation Board. The landscape architect will work with foundation and Sherwood. We will get bills, sign and give to Sherwood. Board will have control of money in the endowment to maintain the property.

Operations and facility update:

- a. Staffing update
 - Permanent part-time position is filled. Three applicants, interviewed one. Offering Tanner

Bouchard the position. Will have partial benefits.

Trail mower position opened. We received 14 calls for application. Brian did interviews, offered someone the job and will get paperwork in soon.

Naturalist intern, Emma Today was hired.

Nature Center Aide had zero applicants. Will offer Kiley Holdorf who applied for the naturalist intern position.

Ben Frostestad is the new hire for Roadside. Tim Frostestad also works for us.

Harley Butler is also a new hire.

Hiring is done. In the future, we will need more staff for trail mowing and more equipment.

Approval of Expense:

- a. Wood chipping is half but expected at that price. They have chipped everything.

- b. Moon of the Snow
New graphic novel about Abby Gardner Sharp story. Verified through state historical society.

- c. Was there water to the lodge? Double month for charging due to timing of meeting.

Kleen motion to accept expenses for the month, Gronstal seconded. Approved.

General Discussion:

Tourism for biking on trails is picking up.

- a. Maser Monarch Lodge updates

Rotary is using Lodge for luncheons. More reservations coming in.

Half of the order of Acoustical panels are made but won't be installed until all are made. Adding a speaker system for programs. Concrete will hopefully be done by June. Lines will need to be painted for parking.

The monarch statue will be based in concrete and landscape around it.

Grand opening for Maser Monarch Lodge? Deloris Maser doesn't want to gather people due to Covid but is eager to host something.

b. Injecting oak trees

The guy came up and did one tree to show how to do it. It was 40 degrees so it took a little longer. 70% success rate. About \$10,000 for tree injection system.

Gronstal motioned to adjourn at 5:53, Kleen seconded. Approved.