

Dickinson County Conservation Board Meeting
7 p.m. August 11 2021
Dickinson County Nature Center, Okoboji, IA

Chair: Willia Mueske

Vice chair: Kathy Kleen

Board members: Joan Gronstal, Steve Anderson, Eric Stoll

Employees: Lee Sorenson

Board liaisons: Steve Clark

Absent: Eric Stoll, Joan Gronstal

Others: Lonnie Saunders- County Attorney, Spence Manners – Brooks Management LLC Attorney via zoom

Call to order by Mueske at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda approval: Kleen motioned to approve agenda, Anderson seconded. Approved.

Public comment: No public comment

Consent agenda/items

- a. Approval of past month's minutes
- b. Recycle report
- c. Environmental education report
- d. Conservation Foundation Minutes (none available)

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

Dickinson County Conservation Board areas:

- a. Brooks Management LLC deferment request

Spencer Manners the Attorney from Brooks Management LLC requested that the Conservation Board defer the July 15, 2021 that is already past due until October 1, 2021. Brooks National LLC & Brooks Management LLC is in a lawsuit dealing with a former employee and waiting to hear on arbitration that should arrive in the next 30 days or so. Saunders inquired what is the next steps or plan if the judgement comes down in the former employees favor? Spence Manner said he could not answer that and it is at unknown at this time. Conservation brought up the point that why should something that has nothing to do with the management agreement be a hardship to the Conservation Board from lack of payment. Spence Manner did not disagree that the two issues are not connected to each other. After careful consideration, Anderson made a motion to allow the payment be deferred until no later than October 1, 2021 at that point if the full payment is not received the Board will call a special meeting to discuss the next steps to be taken from the Conservation Board, which include possible termination of the contract. Kleen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

- b. EOB Lots management agreement/selling

Conservation had a request from a neighboring landowner to enter into a management

agreement for the four lots in the East Okoboji Beach area. The request came up due to the placing of private beehives on county land, which had been discussed in the past with the conservation board and moved not to allow private bees on public land due to liability concerns. After discussion, Anderson made a motion that we continue not to allow any private beehives on county land that is owned or managed by the Dickinson County Conservation Board. Kleen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c. Hamdorf Contribution / REAP Grant Approval

Sorenson requested that the Conservation increase their contribution for the purchase of the Hamdorf property from \$37,500 from last year to \$50,000 for the REAP grant due on August 30, 2021. The \$37,500 will come from the reserve fund and the additional \$12,500 could be paid out of the REAP annual allocation since the nature center is paid in full. Sorenson has also requested \$5000 from the Pheasant Forever Chapter but has not heard back as of yet. Kleen made a motion to approve the contribution of \$50,000 for the Hamdorf land acquisition, Anderson seconded. Motion Carried.

Kleen made a motion to approve the submittal of the REAP grant application for the acquisition of the Hamdorf Property. Anderson seconded. Motion Carried.

d. Nature Center sign along HWY 71

Conservation Board reviewed the design of the proposed sign along HWY 71 for the Nature Center, the design has been approve by the county zoning office. There is discussion on whether it should it have lighting or not. Anderson moved to approve this proposed sign along hwy 71 for the nature center. Kleen seconded. Motion carried.

e. Sherwood parking area

Conservation reviewed the parking design for the Sherwood Forest area; Board is interested on where a restroom will be located in reference to the parking area.

f. Stella Winter Land

Anderson discussed about the sale of the Stella Winter land sale and possible options, at this point more time is need to research floristic inventory of the land and possible funding sources. Also if the sale could be delayed until this year round of REAP grant approval to see if the Hamdorf Project is funded.

Approval of Expense:

Anderson Moves to approve expenses, Kleen seconded. Motion carried.

General Discussion:

- a. Group of individuals are discussing putting together a friends group for the Abbie Gardner cabin. Easement on the property with the INHF Conservation Easement being the primary.

Kleen motioned to adjourn at 8:28, Anderson seconded. Approved.