

Dickinson County Conservation Board
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2023
22785 Nature Center, Okoboji, IA

Chair: Joan Gronstal (via Zoom)

Vice Chair: Steve Anderson

Board Members: Kathy Kleen, Eric Stoll, Douglas Nielsen

BOS Liaison: Steve Clark (absent)

Employees: Lee Sorenson

Visitors: Shanna Claybaugh, Dena Jensen

Called to order by Anderson at 7:00 pm (Anderson Chaired the meeting since Gronstal was on zoom)

Kleen motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Stoll. All approved, motion carried.

Public Comment (limited to 5 minutes) No comments.

Consent agenda/Items – Stoll motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Nielsen. All approved, motion carried. (Consent agenda items- DCCB Minutes, RCC report, EE report)

Dickinson County Conservation Board Area's

Shanna Claybaugh made a presentation about the inclusive playground that a group of volunteers has been working on. The group is looking for a 1-acre location (165' x 185') to construct an ADA structure & fitness playground. The area will need to have an ADA restroom facility and accessibility. The board requested information on annual maintenance cost/ and ground surface lifespan with our Iowa winters and if there are plans for endowment. Board instructed Sorenson to look for viable options of land that might be possible that would fit the requirement and bring them to the board next month. Another question that was asked was how close does the restroom have to be to the site.

Board discussed becoming a bird friendly county, currently we feel that we would qualify for category 1 and will have to check to see if we would qualify for category 2. Board instructed Sorenson to move the process forward to become a bird friendly county.

Board discussed a request from the trails board to make some changes at the trail head by what we call the snake pit (parcel ID 0731251003). The request would incorporate a relocation of parking lot that would extend onto County Conservation Board land. At this time the Board felt there should be a 28-E agreement written up between the trails board and the Conservation Board with details on maintenance of the parking area that extends onto Conservation Board Property. Also, Board commented on that the State of Iowa might need to permit the project due to the spine trail being owned by the state.

Sorenson requested that the Conservation Board allocate \$10,000 towards and Digital Pin board for the nature center. The \$10,000 would be included in a request to the Okoboji Foundation through the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County which Sorenson will also be requesting them also to donate

\$10,000. Nielsen made a motion to allocate \$10,000 from the Conservation Board to apply for the Okoboji Foundation grant for the Digital Pin Board, seconded by Kleen. All approved, motion carried. Gronstal exited the meeting.

Operations and facility update

Board discussed the request from the Board of Supervisors about a letter in favor or against to relocation of the church on the south side of the courthouse to Kenue Park. Nielsen made a motion for Sorenson to make a letter that states the Conservation Board is not in favor of accepting the church since they feel it does not fit into their plans, Kleen seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Board discussed changing the reservation on the Maser Monarch Lodge from one year out to 18 months. Also discussed that we will be removing the online payment calendar and all rentals will have to contact the front desk to schedule a reservation. Stoll made a motion to change the rules and regulation of the Maser Monarch Lodge to the ability to reserve 18 months prior to the date, Nieslen seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Kleen made a motion to approve the monthly claims, seconded by Stoll. All approved, motion carried.

General Discussion- Board signed thank you letter for land donation.

The Little Sioux River water trail meeting is being worked on the will be in Spencer in the near future.

Board discussed the possibility of moving the parking lot lights to along the building to get them out of the lot.

Adjournment Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm by Kleen, seconded by Stoll. All approved, motion carried.