

Dickinson County Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2023

22785 Nature Center Rd, Okoboji, IA

Chair: Joan Gronstal

Vice Chair: Steve Anderson

Board Members: Kathy Kleen, Eric Stoll, Douglas Nielsen

BOS Liaison: Steve Clark

Employees: Lee Sorenson, Amy Heibult

Visitors: None

1. Call to order: Called to order by J. Gronstal at 7:00 pm

2. Agenda approval: S. Anderson motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by D. Nielsen. All approved, motion carried.

3. Public Comments: L. Sorenson, Executive Director, mentioned an email with a local residential complaint about the Sherwood Driveway.

4. Consent agenda items: Approval of past month minutes, recycle report, and environmental education report. K. Kleen motioned to approve all agenda items except the RCC report, seconded by E. Stoll. All approved, motion carried.

5. Dickinson County Conservation Areas:

A. Easement reports for Kenue, Brooks, & Sherwood: Discussion of easements and parking lot at Sherwood. All easements were reviewed by the INHF and approved.

B. REAP Grant update for Hamdorf property: Dickinson County Conservation Board came in 4th place for the grant. Discussion of funding Hamdorf property continues.

C. Youth hunting at Horseshoe Bend request: D. Nielsen motioned to continue to not allow youth and adult shotgun hunting at Horseshoe Bend from here forward., seconded by S. Anderson. All approved, motion carried.

D. IRVM Committee Update: discussion about new goal of 10 acres of roadside to be planted each year instead of 3% of county to allow manageable maintenance and increase native plant establishment. At a future meeting the conservation board will make a recommendation to the Board of supervisors on what to define maintenance.

E. Abbie Gardner Interest discussion: discussion of staffing and potentials cost of cabin.

6. Operation and facility

A. Salary Discussion: Board reviewed a matrix that the Director put together comparing salaries to approx. 25 other county conservation staff.

7. Approval of Expenses: K. Kleen motioned to approve monthly expenses, seconded by E. Stoll. All approved, motion carried.

8. General Discussion:

A. The next Conservation Board Meeting will be held on October 4, 2023

B. REAP Assembly public meeting will be held on October 3, 2023, from 1-3 pm at Oneota Lodge in Spencer. This meeting will be held to inform about funding for outdoor recreation, management, and conservation related projects.

C. L. Sorensen informed board about a phone call from a local resident regarding wind turbines. The individual wanted to know where the Dickinson County Conservation Board stands on the topic of wind turbine construction in the area. The Dickinson County Conservation Board does NOT take a stance about the wind turbines.

9. Adjournment: E. Stoll motioned to adjourn at 8:03 pm, seconded by S. Anderson. All approved, motion carried.