

Draft Minutes

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 Tuesday August 9, 2011 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Dave Carroll, Dave Duncklee, and Bill Moody. Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Sherry Strub. Attending from the public was Lansing Mayor Don Peters, Bill Burke, Laura Olson from Allamakee County Tourism and Economic Development, Mark Moines from Martin Architecture, and Mark Jobgen from IIW Engineering. Also present was Board staff members Jim Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Bill Burke of Lansing presented three alternative sites for the Conservation Board to consider abandoning the Columbus Bridge site for building an Education / Visitor Center. The sites all included the purchase of land. The locations were on Lansing Company property and the Chris Cook property. Both properties on the west edge of Lansing on State Highway Nine. The third site was the Ryan Property on the Lansing Harpers Road. Burke stated a number of reasons for the Board to consider choosing any of the above three properties over the Columbus Bridge Property. Reasons stated by Burke for using the three proposed sites over the Columbus Property included the properties being larger, they could possibly be hooked up to City of Lansing water and sewer, and they offered access to possible future developments. The Director also informed the Board that Jim Kerndt of Lansing had conveyed to him that the current Fishing Museum buildings could possibly be made available to the Conservation Board on a long term lease. The Board took no action on Burke's request for abandoning the proposed development plans for the Columbus Bridge Property and pursuing planning alternative sites. Board of Supervisors Sherry Strub asked both Mayor Peters and Burke if the proposed sites had been approved by the City of Lansing. Mayor Peters informed the Board they had not been approved or discussed by the Lansing City Council. Mayor Peters also noted that Cook property was not going to be for sale. Conservation Board Director Jim Janett informed the Board he had personal contact with the Ryan family regarding purchasing the property. The Board will view the properties and discuss them at the September Board meeting.

The Board discussed services that IIW Engineering could completed for the Allamakee County Conservation Board with IIW representative Mark Jobgen regarding the Columbus Bridge Property. Mark Monies from Martin Architecture discussed the work they have completed on the property. The Director read the scope of work correspondence he had submitted to IIW Engineering and the proposal for work to be completed submitted by IIW. The proposal included IIW future meetings with the Board and Martin Architecture, preparing cost estimates for the design and construction of hooking onto City of Lansing sewer and water, prepare costs for designing and constructing an on site waste handling facility, and to coordinate findings with the Board and Martin Architecture on determining a building footprint and best design options. The cost for completing the work from IIW Engineering was \$3,300.00 and should be completed with in two to three weeks. A motion was made by Duncklee to sign the IIW proposal, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The Director will coordinate with IIW on providing information and current plans.

The Allamakee County Driftless Byway was discussed by the Board. The signs had recently been installed along the byway route. The Director informed the Board that he had been requested to serve on the Allamakee County Driftless Byway Board. The Board has five members and currently has Laura Olson, Brian Ridenour, and a Board of Supervisor serving. The Conservation Board approved the Director to serve on the Board. The Board will meet monthly for the first three months and move to quarterly meeting. Funding opportunities will exist for Conservation Board parks on and near the byway route. An informational hand out was provided to the Board.

A number of field operations items were presented to the Board. Items included progress on the shelter house at the County Home, Stone Brook grading, County Home silt retention pond dike repair being complete, and repair progress by the Railroad at Nobles Island from the train derailment.

Informational items discussed by the Board included the following: the upcoming IACCB Annual Conference being held in Buchanan County, assistance from the Tourism and Economic Development staff with updating the five year REAP Plan, forms being received by the County Auditor for the REAP .22cents per thousand certification from the IDNR, user conflicts at Bridge Sixteen Canoe Access, and possible future grant opportunities from the Fish Habitat Grant Program. The Director was asked the status of the Columbus Bridge stream bank stabilization project on Village Creek, the Director informed the Board all permits had been obtained and the material and labor had yet to be let for the project. It was also noted that conditions in the permits required the project be completed in low water conditions. It was questionable in the project would be completed this year due to high water. The status of the land donation on the Upper Iowa River at the Morgan Bridge site was also discussed by the Board. The Director had provided the owner a map reflecting the necessary area to be donated for a canoe access. The area for the donation minus County Road Right of Way totaled approximately 75 acres. The Director noted to the Board that it will be necessary to obtain permission from the Allamakee County Zoning Board to proceed with the project in order to have a plat of the property created due to the acreage being less than 3 acres. Comments were passed onto the Board regarding flood debris at Nobles Island, the Director informed the Board the ground was still very soft for equipment to operate and attempts had been made which resulted in equipment being stuck.

There being no additional business or information items, a motion was made by Carroll to adjourn the meeting, second Blocker, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.