

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 10:30 A.M. on Monday June 6, 2011 in the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors Office located on the first floor of the Allamakee County Courthouse 110 Allamakee Street Waukon, Iowa. The Conservation Board conducted a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors and then proceeded with the regular June meeting of the Conservation Board. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Dave Carroll, Dave Duncklee, Bill Moody, and Gary Soper. Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors were Sherry Strub and Larry Shellhammer, Present from the public was Doug Sharp, Bill O'Connor, Bruce Palmborg, Laura Olson, Jane Regan, Brian Ridenour, and Drew Hager. Also present were Conservation Board Staff Jim Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 A.M. and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Conservation Board discussed development plans for the Columbus Bridge property with the Board of Supervisors. The Conservation Board provided the Board of Supervisors a history of the property and the development plans the Conservation Board has been working on. The Board also provided a summary of the various uses they had considered for the property. Different uses ranged from a seasonal shelter house, enclosed shelter for year around usage, and development of an Education /Visitor Center. The Conservation Board conveyed to the Board of Supervisors that any of the uses will require water and sewer. With the MRT (Mississippi River Trail) bid letting and the future construction along the roadway connecting the Columbus Bridge Property to the City of Lansing, the Conservation Board advised the Board of Supervisors it was necessary to communicate with the City of Lansing to explore the options of hooking up water and sewer so the work could possibly be completed during the construction of the MRT Project. The Director noted that meetings with IDNR Environmental Protection Division advised it would be beneficial to hook up to the City of Lansing sewer. The Conservation Board noted to the Supervisors that the current design of the Center would need to obtain a variance from the County to permit parking on County Road Right of Way. Laura Olson from the Economic and Tourism Office emphasized the grant writing potential for the project with the roadway having three byway designations. The Director noted the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation has been formed and has received a \$2,000.00 donation for the Education / Visitor project and a \$6,000.00 grant had been received for sewer and water design work from the Allamakee County Community Foundation. The Conservation Board also notes to the Supervisors that the development of an Education / Visitors Center had been proposed to the Conservation Board early as 1991, and there had been numerous individuals that had attended monthly Conservation Board meeting asked the Conservation Board to consider the construction of a Center on the property. The Board of Supervisors moved to continue supporting the Conservation Board's efforts in developing and fund raising for an Education / Visitor Center on the Columbus Bridge Property.

Claims, revenue summaries, and status of the current fiscal budget were provided to the Board. A projected ending balance of the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget was \$2,000.00. The Director informed the Board that the Fish Habitat check from the IDNR for the Stone Brook Property had been received and \$10,000.00 would be reimbursed back into the REAP Account and the balance going back into the General Basis Account.

The possible land donation on the Upper Iowa River was discussed by the Board. The Director had been informed by Planning and Zoning Department that since the donation was less than 3 acres the P&Z Board would have to approve the creation of the plat. The Board also discussed that a purchase of the property is preferred, but a long term lease would also be considered. The Director is currently working on completing a map of the area that will provide the size of the donation. Possible development plans for the property included construction of a parking lot, dry hydrant, information kiosk, restroom, and possibly a small shelter house.

Stone Brook Park was discussed by the Board. The Director informed the Board that the REAP check had been received from the IDNR, clearing from Skyline Construction had been completed, and the majority of the area had been seeded. A hole had been dug and trees were placed in the hole. The trees will be burnt and the hole filled back in with a bull dozer. The permit had been filled and approved for the placement of the pit latrine.

Marketing the use of Allamakee County Conservation Board areas was discussed by the Board. KNEI radio is running an add on promoting Harpers Ferry. The cost to participate in the add was \$125.00 per month. The motion was made by Blocker to place an add on the radio highlighting the boat landing, fishing float, and farmers market at Bluffview Park, second Duncklee, all in favor, motion carried.

Field operations items presented to the Board included tree plantings, beginning on the construction of the shelter house at the County Home, flood clean up efforts, and regular grounds maintenance.

The Board discussed a possible time to get on the City of Lansing's agenda to discuss obtaining a letter stating they would consider allowing the possible hooking up of services to the Columbus Bridge Property. The Board is hesitating spend planning dollars if the City of Lansing isn't open to the possibility of providing services to the Columbus Bridge Property.

Board member mileage was submitted from January – June 2011.

The next Conservation Board meeting will be held Tuesday July 5, 2011 in the Board office in Harpers Ferry. The Director reminded the Board about moving the August meeting date due to scheduling conflicts.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Soper to adjourn the meeting, second Blocker, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.