

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board meet in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday January 8, 2013 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. The regular monthly meeting date had been moved to the second Tuesday due to the first Tuesday falling on New Year's Day. Board members present were as follows: Dave Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Bill Moody, and Gary Soper. Attending from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Dennis Koenig; attending from the public was Ann Klees. Also present were Board staff members Jim Janett and Jarrod Olson.

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

Claims were reviewed and approved by the Board. Current fiscal year budget summaries and revenue account balances were also presented to the Board.

Board Member appointments were discussed by the Board. Dave Carroll's term is up for appointment. Board of Supervisors Member Sherry Strub had been in contact with the Director regarding County Board appointments and the State of Iowa Gender Balance Law. Strub indicated that a vacancy notice should be placed in the paper. The Director will place a public notice in the paper for a vacant position and will also submit a letter to the Board of Supervisors that Dave Carroll is willing to accept another term to the Conservation Board.

Ann Klees spoke with the Board regarding having the Allamakee Protectors Group being placed on the February Conservation Board agenda to discuss proposed frac sand mining operations in Allamakee County. The Director will coordinate with Board Member Dave Carroll about placing the item on the next month's agenda.

Possible grants for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center were discussed by the Board. Two different grants were discussed. Submitting a grant for planning from the Allamakee County Community Foundation for \$20,000.00 was approved by the Board upon a motion by Clark, second Soper, all in favor, motion carried. The application deadline is February 1, 2013. A second grant funding source had been identified by Upper Explorer Land Regional Planning Agency. The Federal grant is administered by the Economic Development Administration and has four different grant cycles during the course of 2013. The Director is forwarding project information to Upper Explorer Land and a determination of eligibility will be made. Information will be provided to the Board regarding this grant source as information becomes available.

The Director informed the Board he and Board Member Dennis Blocker had met with a representative from TeKippe Engineering to discuss a number of items regarding the well permitting process, septic design, compliance on the Scenic Byway Grant, and other engineering needs for completing the Education and Visitor Center. A work order had been received for \$750.00 from TeKippe for completing the following: "TeKippe will provide a recommendation for feasibility on utilizing an existing well for public use, preliminary opinion of probable cost for new public well, if determined to be necessary, and on-site sanitary sewer treatment facility. Included will be coordination with project architect, Martin Gardner, for current drawings and building information necessary to complete the above described work". The Director conveyed to the Board that other engineering work to be completed would be

covered in requests for proposals in order to be reimbursed through the Scenic Byways Grant. A motion was made by Soper to approve the TeKippe proposal for \$750.00 for the above listed work, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed the possibility of forming a design committee to work on display design and placement in the Education and Visitor Center. It was decided by the board that a final floor plan was needed before placement of displays could be discussed. The use of professional display design services was also discussed.

The Director updated the Board on Road #527 south of the power plant. Adjoining property owner Raleigh Buckmaster, would like to see the approximately 800' of right away beyond the current gate vacated. County Engineer Brian Ridenour had sent the Director a draft letter that he was planning to send to Mr. Buckmaster, stating his order of priorities. Which would be 1. Leave the road as it is. 2. Make the South 800' a Level C road with a gate and no trespassing, but a better turn around area would be needed. 3. Vacate the road beyond the gate if Mr. Buckmaster would be willing to give enough area to create a 100' Cul-de-sac.

The Board discussed the Iowa DNR's proposal to make the Upper Iowa River a Water Trail. The Director informed the board that there had been three landowner/stakeholder meetings held by the DNR and RC&D in Howard, Winneshiek, and Allamakee counties. There was a fair amount of landowner concerns, questions, and opposition to the proposal. The Directors concerns were that the Conservation Board would be the ones implementing the work and long term care of signage, and questioned why it needed to be The Iowa DNR and couldn't just be done by the counties themselves.

The Board staff had agreed to help with a snowmobiling safety class being held at Waukon Powersports on Saturday January 12th. The Board staff will also be helping out with a hunter safety class being put on in the Lansing area at a later date.

The Director informed the Board of an upcoming meeting with ASAP coordinator Maxine Grotegut about further discussion on passing a county ordinance in county conservation areas to curtail underage drinking. After a lengthy discussion by the Board the Board was unable to determine an ordinance that would truly curb underage drinking, as well as be enforceable, without being overly restrictive to other park users.

The Board discussed Budget items for the next fiscal year. Items discussed included a fulltime naturalist position, a different vehicle with better miles per gallon, shelter construction at Stonebrook Park, sign replacement and signs for information kiosks. The Board will discuss the budget further at its February meeting.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Moody to adjourn, second Soper, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.