

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday June 4, 2013 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Bill Moody, and Gary Soper. Present from the public was Bruce Plomborg, Chuck Jackman, and Dave Carroll. 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.

Budgets, claims, and revenues were reviewed by the Board. A projected ending balance of the current fiscal year budget was \$11,625.00. This amount is minus claims currently being submitted for payment, employee salaries, and grant reimbursement funds. The amount of money in the grant reimbursement fund is \$32,128.00. The Board discussed the possibility of spending funds from the account for shelter house construction at Stone Brook Park. A projected ending balance should be a minimum of \$2,000.00. The Director will make contact with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the possibility. The Director will also have the Auditor's Office run the REAP report to make sure the Department is meeting the minimum spending requirements for continued funding.

Chuck Jackman discussed the proposed Conservation Easement for his property. The Director informed the Board that he had met with the County Attorney and the Board of Supervisors to review the terms and conditions of the easement; neither has any issues if the Conservation Board enters into the agreement. The Director asked for consideration of the removal of conditions and language stated on page 4 -5 under INSPECTIONS/ACCESS BY GRANNTTEE, "file a report on an annual basis". Mr. Jackman will discuss the changes with his council and follow up with the Director regarding the changes. A motion was made by Moody to approve the conservation easement with the necessary changes, second Soper, all in favor, motion carried.

Field operation items discussed included the following: flood clean up, regular grounds maintenance, weed spraying, completing the parking lot at Stone Brook, and preparation for construction at Ray's Landing. The Director informed the Board there would be additional high water cleanup once the current water levels lower.

The Director provided the Board with an update on hiring of the Naturalist Position. The Board had been informed earlier in May an offer had been made and accepted by Ross Geerdes for the position starting at \$30,000.00 per year. A June 10, 2013 start date had been established. A motion was made by Clark to approve the hiring of Ross Geerdes, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried.

Part-time summer hourly wage rates were discussed by the Board. The two second season employees were currently at \$8.00 per hour and have approximately nine weeks of employment remaining on the season. A motion was made by Carroll to increase the two second season employees hourly wage from \$8.00 per hour to \$8.50 per hour, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

A number of informational items were discussed by the Board. Items included communication with the IDNR regarding the pit latrines at Nobles Island leaking. Permits and funding for the restroom replacement were discussed. Funding for replacement of the restrooms will be submitted by the Fisheries Division through the Marine Fuel Tax Program. There will be a construction project request filed by the IDNR and the permits process will begin. Other items discussed regarding Nobles Island included the boat ramp extensions. According to the IDNR area engineering services, the project will be let in the next couple months and the project completed once normal or low conditions occur.

The Director informed the Board that Iowa DOT had recently presented a webinar on implementing a federal transportation grant. A number of requirements have been fulfilled, the RFP process for engineering, architectural, and interpretation services are the next step in the grant implementation process.

Road #527 south of the power plant was discussed by the Board. Road improvements made to the road by the County had been damaged due to vehicle usage by the island restoration contractor traveling the road. The damage had been compounded by the wet weather. The County Engineer is in the process of contacting the contractor about assisting in road repair costs.

Environmental education programs for the upcoming summer season were discussed by the Board. A number of education programs currently are scheduled and some new programs will be developed.

The Director informed the Board that a presentation to the Allamakee County Historical Society had been completed. The program included information on the history of the Conservation Department and the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center.

Bob Hager from Upper Iowa Resort and Rental had been in contact with the Director regarding a possible donation to the Department in memory of his brother Steve Hager. Improvements at Kumph's Bridge had been suggested by Hager. The Director has coordinated a meeting with Hager to discuss development and donation options.

Information was provided by the Board on needed entrance door repair work at Bluffview Park.

The Director discussed some trail development options that may be available to the Board in the Lansing area in the future.

The next board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday July 2, 2013 in the Board office.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Soper to adjourn the meeting, second, Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.