

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 10:00 A.M. Tuesday May 7, 2013 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa 52146. The Board conducted two employment interviews beginning at 10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. The Board took a break for lunch between 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. at the Spillway Restaurant in Harpers Ferry, Iowa. The regular business portion of the monthly Board meeting began at 1:00 P.M. in the Conservation Board Office. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, and Bill Moody. Those present from the public during the course of the meeting included the following: Angi Reed, Ross Geerdes, Bruce Plomborg, Paul Melsha and Dave Carroll. Also present were Board staff members Jim Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. and the Board completed two employment interviews. The first interview was conducted at 10:00 A.M. with Angi Reed. The second interview was conducted at 11:00 A.M. with Ross Geerdes.

The Board took a break for lunch at the Spillway Restaurant between 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M.

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

2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget and revenue balances were reviewed by the Board. Revenue account balances included the following; REAP \$188,378.78, Special Project Account \$31,451.33, and Conservation Reserve Account \$11,275.75. A projected ending balance of the current fiscal year was estimated at \$23,304.00. The projected ending balance was minus full time employee salaries and benefits. A list of possible expenditures to close the fiscal year budget was reviewed by the Board. Items included the following possible expenditure items: blocks for park entrance sign bases, entrance sign steel uprights, signs, shelter house construction material, gravel as needed at various parks, and weed control chemicals. The Board will view current fiscal year budget balances during the June meeting.

Claims were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Bids for stream bank stabilization with shaping of a handicapped fishing access sidewalk on Village Creek on the Columbus Property were reviewed by the Board. A summary of the bids submitted were as follows; Brennan Construction \$23,333.00, Nick Jones Construction \$23,375.00, Riehm Construction \$23,711.25, Freiling Construction \$27,968.75, and Ron Strong Construction \$28,500.00. A motion was made by Moody to accept the low bid for the project from Brennan Construction, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. Grant funding for the project will be used from the Fish Habitat Grant Fund.

Part-time summer employment was discussed by the Board. The Director had posted the opening of applications for summer positions for two weeks. Ethan Halverson had applied and interviewed for a part-time summer position last summer and was still interested in accepting a summer position. A motion was made by Carroll to approve the hiring of Ethan Halverson for a part-time summer position at the rate of \$8.00 per hour, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The Director informed the Board that two other seasonal employees were returning for their second season. Those individuals are Lowell Stuart and Shannon Plaht. Hourly wage increases for the second season employees were discussed by

the Board. The Board will further discuss hourly wages increases for the second season positions during the regular June monthly Board meeting.

The Board discussed the hiring of the fulltime naturalist position. After discussion on who to offer the position, the Board instructed the Director to decide whom to offer the position. Both applicants indicated to the Board during the interview process that the starting wage of \$28,000.00 was too low for either applicant to accept. The Board gave the Director the latitude to negotiate the salary for the position. Based on experience for the position the Board suggested offering Angi Reed \$29,500.00 during the six month probation period and increase the salary to \$31,000.00 after six months. The other suggestion was to offer Ross Geerdes \$28,000.00 during the six month probation period and increase the salary to \$29,500 after six months. The Director will keep the Board informed regarding the status of the hiring process.

A number of informational items were discussed by the Board. Those items included status of restroom replacement and ramp extensions at Nobles Island, permits status for various upcoming projects, contact from John Schultz on Stone Brook Park, well repair at Bluffview Park, grant implementation assistance from Upper Explorer Land Regional Planning Agency, and upcoming educational programs.

The Board discussed and approved the next meeting date being at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday June 4, 2013 at the Board Office.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Clark, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P.M.