

Draft

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday July 1, 2014 at the Columbus Property located at 1944 Columbus Drive Lansing, Iowa. Board members who were present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Bill Moody, and Dennis Koenig. Present from the public were Clem Schulte, Dave Dunckle, Jim Kerndt, Paul Meshla, Gary Grafle and Jane Reagan. Board staff who were present were Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes.

The Board reviewed and approved claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances.

Ending fiscal year budget projections update was provided by the Director. Month end/year end summaries had not been completed. The Director projected an ending balance of \$3,206.00.

An update on the flood damage received during June storms was given. Several trees were lost at the Makee Manor along with washouts on the road at County Home Park. Several loads of gravel will be needed to repair the damage to the roadway. The approach to the historic bridge at Clear Creek has been washed out. Rock fill will be needed to repair the approach. The walking bridge was washed out and will need to be reset. Prairie plantings at Stone Brooke Park had been washed away. Flood waters were over the entire shelter floor and several feet high in the pit toilet. Concrete work that had been done was undercut and will need to have fill repacked underneath of it. Several trees and debris were also washed in from the river. The canoe access at Bridge 16 has been damaged by high water. The Director has been coordinating with the County Engineer to remove the debris, shape the river bank, and place rip rap. Concrete will be poured over the rip rap.

Part-time employee Ethan Halverson resigned effective June 26, 2014. He stated low wages as the release for leaving.

The Director and Naturalist updated the board on the Environmental Education programs being offered to the public. The Director noted that good feedback has been received from many people in the public. Geerdes assisted with several school field trips throughout May and the beginning of June. Partnering organizations for the field trips included the NRCS, Iowa DNR, and the Iowa State University Extension. Summer Day camps are being offered throughout the summer. The first day camps in June averaged approximately 20 attendants. Summer day camps as well as programs at libraries throughout the County will be offered in the month of July. High water in the Mississippi River is affecting some programs for July; the Mississippi River Adventure Day will probably be cancelled.

In April the Conservation Board was notified by the Allamakee County Sheriff's Department of possible Meth Lab activity at Waterville Pines. It was inspected by Olson and determined to be a fort structure built by kids. Upon further investigation in June a document with names of the individuals was discovered and their parents were contacted. They were ordered to remove the debris.

REAP grants will be due August 15. The director will be submitting an application for the Education and Visitors Center.

Board Members were asked to turn in their mileage for reimbursement.

The new John Deere riding lawn mower has been received. The new front loader for the tractor has not been received.

A letter from the IAACCB president was given to board members. It was expressed by board members they would like to see a representative of the IAACCB to explain the benefits of the organization. More information will be provided during the August meeting.

Members of the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation were welcomed to the meeting.

Information was given by the Director regarding the Scenic Byways Grant. The Audits have been received from the DOT on Split Rock Studios and they can proceed with the consulting process.

Members of the foundation and the Conservation Board discussed donor recognition at the Education Center. It was thought by most that people donating money to the project would not expect a gift in return, but would rather have their name on a recognition wall. Several ideas for recognizing monetary levels of donors on the wall were discussed.

Professional fundraising services were discussed by members of the Board and the Foundation. It was agreed upon that further information regarding the services was needed and would be sought.

Split Rock Studios will conduct a "Kickoff" meeting for display planning for the Education and Visitors Center. Information for floor plans and fundraising materials will also be discussed at the meeting.

The next meeting will be held August 5, 2014 at the Allamakee County Conservation office.

A motion to adjourn was made by Clark and seconded by Carroll. Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.