

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday January 5th, 2016 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, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. Conservation Board staff members present were as follows: Ross Geerdes, James Janett, Jackie Jellings, and Jarrod Olson. Bruce Palmburg and Paul Melsha were present from the public.

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.

The Board discussed the 2016-2017 fiscal year Budget. The Director will be making adjustments to the waste disposal and phone budget amounts and will report final amounts to the Board at the February meeting. The Director will be ending the internet service at the Harpers Ferry Office and adding it to the Education Center, once the building is operational. Proposed possible expenditure projections for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center were presented to the Board. The Director will be asking the Board of Supervisors to help fund road use moneys and to provide \$100,000.00 to the Conservation Board to help support the Education Center. The Director will be addressing these request at the next scheduled meeting with the Board of Supervisors for the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget review and approval meeting.

Updates on all current grants, fundraising and construction for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center were provided to the Board. The Director will be attending the next CAT Board review meeting on January 13th, 2015 in Des Moines. Work completed on the project included drilling of the geothermal wells, building site excavation, pouring of footings and last wall will be poured January 6th, 2015. The Board reviewed and approved the second contractor claims, totaling \$229,108.34 to be reimbursed by the National Scenic Byway Grant. A motion was made to approve Cresco Builders claim for \$81,453.00 by Clark, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. A motion was made to approve Skyline Construction's claim for \$147,655.34 by Clark, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The Director will be making contact with REC and Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank for possible interim financing. The Director will report findings to the Board at the February meeting.

The Board reviewed and approved support towards the "I Will" Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. A motion was made to approve the Boards support towards The Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund by Koenig, second by Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed and approved the Directors request to apply for the Allamakee County Community Foundation Grant. A motion was made to approve the Director to apply for the Allamakee County Community Foundation Grant by Moody, second by Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

Field operations and educational program updates were provided to the Board. The progress on posting the Postville Trail Line Property is currently still ongoing. The Director will be attending the REAP Congress January 9th, 2016 in Des Moines.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be February 2nd, 2015 at 1:00 P.M at the Board office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa.

There being no additional business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second by Carroll; all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.