

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 6th, 2016 at 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. Present from the public were as follows: Paul Melsha, Gary Krapfl, and Bruce Palmborg.

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

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year summaries were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Updates on current grants, fundraising, and construction for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center were provided to the Board. The Director announced the Board of Supervisors approved using Road Use Tax funds to pave the mainline paving of Columbus Road by the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. Work has been continuing on the Center with sheet rocking, masonry work, decking material being installed, continued heating and cooling installation, and elevator installation. The exterior retaining walls and final sight work should be being shortly. The Board reviewed and approved the eleventh contractor claim, totaling \$321,936.62 to be reimbursed by the National Scenic Byway Grant. A motion was made to approve Cresco Builder's claim for \$321,936.62 by Carroll, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. Updates were provided to the Board on Alliant Energy placing overhead power lines underground on Columbus Road.

The board discussed Girl Scout Camp Tahigwa and the recent letter from the Girl Scouts regarding the possible sale of the property. The Director will make contract with the Girl Scouts and further research their plans for the property.

Capital improvements at Village Creek Boat Landing were discussed by the Board. Improvements included the paving of the parking lot, rest rooms, and improved handicapped access. The IDNR would like the Conservation Board to consider a management agreement on the area in the future.

The Director invited both the Conservation Board and Foundation Board to an upcoming meeting, on September 22nd, 2016 at 11:00 a.m., with Split Rock Studios. Split Rock Studios will be presenting the first draft designs for the interpretive displays in the Visitor Center.

Field operation updates and project priorities were provided to the Board. Assistant Director, Jarrod Olson, presented his thoughts on the two taxidermists to use for the black bear, Middle Slough handicap sidewalk project is still ongoing, a local community member will be doing 20 hours of community service, and the Board will be running Luster Heights inmates this month.

No other informational items or old business were discussed.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be Tuesday, October 4th, 2016 at 1:00 P.M in 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 2:45 P.M.