

## Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Thursday February 27, 2011 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. The Board met at the end of January for the February meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Dave Carroll, Bill Moody, and Gary Soper. Present from the public was Lora Friest, Executive Director of Northeast Iowa RC&D, and Bruce Palmborg. Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Cloy Kuhse, and 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 upon a motion by Blocker, second Soper, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims and revenue summaries were presented to the Board.

Budget work for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget was completed by the Board. A motion was made by Blocker to submit the proposed budget to the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors for consideration, second Soper, all in favor, motion carried. The Naturalist/Office Manager position was omitted from the budget, the Board instructed the Director to research difference funding options for the position. Should funding efforts be successful, the Board will discuss permanent funding options with the Board of Supervisors.

Lora Friest from Northeast Iowa RC&D discussed the role RC&D has played for grant writing with other County Conservation Boards in Northeast Iowa. The grant process for the development of an education and visitor center on the Columbus Property was also discussed. Friest confirmed the Columbus Property being on three designated Scenic Byways would allow for priority funding from various Federal & State grant programs. Friest also discussed the application process for grant writing services and that fee structures varied depending on the grant funding source. The Board noted they are interested in working with RC&D with grant writing efforts for the Columbus Property.

The Board asked the Director if he had any communication with the City of Lansing regarding extending services to the Columbus Property and annexation guidelines. There had been no response from the City of Lansing. The Board discussed the need to attend a Lansing City Council meeting in the future.

The Board discussed the Postville Trail Line Property. Board of Supervisor Cloy Kuhse and the Conservation Board Director attended a meeting with Palmer Abstract to discuss ownership concerns. The discussion with Palmer Abstract indicated the County had a legitimate ownership claim. The Director conveyed to the Board that Palmer made clear this way only his opinion and that legal council should be retained to clarify the ownership issue in question. Supervisors Kuhse indicated he may have an opportunity to

speak with the adjoining landowners and the Board should consider viewing the property early spring.

The Board discussed status of the Stone Brook LLP acquisition. The Director informed the Board the deed has been prepared and the plat recorded. The property is ready for closing. The Board has received a Fish Habitat Grant to purchase the property but may not receive the funds during the current fiscal year. The Director informed the Board the Auditors Office will require a budget amendment for use of funds from the Conservation Reserve or Special project accounts. A motion was made by Blocker to proceed with a budget amendment at the earliest possible time and have funds transferred from the Special Project Account to purchase the property and have the Fish Habitat Grant Funds reimburse in the Special Project Account upon receipt, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed a current work outline for the department.

Adult education programs were discussed by the Board. A possible adult snowshoeing class was discussed. Other possible programs were also discussed. The Board instructed the Director to complete at least one adult education class during the course of the year.

A possible location of a canoe access on the Lansing Harpers Road Village Creek Bridge was discussed by the Board. The site would need to have access to Village Creek with parking for three or four cars. The Director will research ownership at the bridge site and make contact with the County Engineer to discuss options.

The next board meeting will be held at the Board Office at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday March 1, 2011.

There being no additional business a motion was made to adjourn by Soper, second Blocker, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.