

## Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday March 1, 2011 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Dave Carroll, and Gary Soper. Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors were Cloy Kuhse, and Larry Shellhammer. Also present was County Engineer Brian Ridenour, Tourism Coordinator Laura Olson, Bruce Palmberg, Conservation Board Staff Members Jim Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order a 1:00 P.M. and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion from Carroll, second Soper, all in favor, motion carried.

Current fiscal year budget summaries, revenues, and claims were reviewed by the Board.

The Board discussed the need to have the current fiscal year budget amended for a \$2,000.00 donation that had been specified for the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation, and for the Fish Habitat Grants the Board had received during the current fiscal year. The amendments will be included in the next County Budget Amendment process conducted by the Allamakee County Auditors Office.

An update was provided to the Board on the status of the Stonebrook LLP land purchase. A closing date has been scheduled for Tuesday March 8, 2011. The Director informed the Board that the Fish Habitat Grant contract had not been received from the IDNR and funds for purchasing the property will have to come from the current fiscal year budget. \$10,000.00 from the REAP account, and \$3,515.00 from the general basic account. When a check from the grant is received the funds will be placed back into the current fiscal year budget and the Conservation Reserve Account.

The Board discussed the County Road south of the Alliant Energy Power Plant in Allamakee County. The road is in Allamakee County ownership and has been closed for vehicle traffic for a number of years. The road receives considerable use from the public participating in hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. Suggestions from the public had asked the Board to consider opening the road up for non motorized use. Board staff had walked the property and indicated the road would allow for approximately a 2 mile one way trail. The road is good condition and needs a minimal amount of improvement. Necessary improvements include cutting over hanging trees and improving some grade on the road bed. A motion was made by Soper to proceed with making improvements to the road for a hiking trail, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The Board instructed the Director to make contact with adjoining landowners.

Field operations updates were provided to the Board.

The Board discussed and approved a request to write letters of support for continued funding support for the Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Office.

The Board inquired about any communication with the City of Lansing regarding the possible use of city water and sewage for the Columbus Bridge Property. The Director informed the Board he had been in contact with Mayor Don Peters and the city was proceeding with finance and design options for water pressure improvement to the southern part of the city.

The Postville Railroad property was discussed by the Board. The Board will conduct a field day at 11:00 A.M. on April 5<sup>th</sup> to view the property and to also view the Stonebrook property in the afternoon.

Informational items were presented and discussed with Board of Supervisors Larry Shellhammer.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Soper to adjourn the meeting, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.