

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday April 6, 2012 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Dave Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Bill Moody, and Gary Soper. Also present was 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.

A correction to the minutes noted changing the Mississippi Valley Conservancy to Riverland Conservancy.

The 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget status was discussed. The month end statements had not been processed for the month of April. It was noted by the Director that projected ending balances of the current fiscal year will allow for little or no balance carry over. The Board will look at ending balance projections at the May meeting. The Conservation Board being the only department cut 10% for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget was discussed. Having lost the \$22,000.00 construction line item, the shelter house at Stonebrook and handicapped sidewalk paving will not be completed.

The two IDNR Fish Habitat Grant Contracts were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Moody approve the Grant Contracts, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims were reviewed and approved by the Board. The claim from Mohn Surveying was discussed by the Board. The \$1,399.00 statement was for work completed at Stonebrook for a topographic map. The original cost projection for the project was for \$600.00 to \$800.00. The Director noted there was some additional change work completed from the original map, the Director will check with Mohn regarding the statement.

Field operation items were presented to the Board. Items included setting all docks and the fishing float, dock repairs, restrooms being opened, well pump replacement, use of inmates, food plot preparation, and Nobles Island ramp extension status. Other field operations items discussed included sign replacement at various areas, mowing of areas, and starting the information kiosk at New Albin Park.

Updates were provided to the Board on the permit status for the Zoll Property. The Director had met with members of the Upper Iowa River Drainage District Board. Verbal approval for the development had been granted, the development plans need to be submitted to the Drainage District Board in writing, signed, and returned. Once returned, the plans will be forwarded to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for approval. IDNR Flood Plains requirements are being processed.

Fencing for the Zoll Property was discussed by the Board. When the Director was meeting with Drainage District Board Members, adjoining landowner Jim Hitchins stopped to discuss fencing

concerns with the Director. Hitchins would like a fence constructed in the fall and removed in the spring to prevent cattle from coming onto the canoe access area. The installation of gates was also discussed. No decision was made on the fencing.

The use of outside legal counsel for various Board activities was discussed. No action was taken on the matter.

Well capping of the abandoned well on the Columbus Property was discussed by the Board. Prices for well capping were being obtained from Shaver Well and A Okay Well Service. The item will be placed on the agenda for the May Board Meeting.

A possible location for a canoe access near the Bridge Sixteen location was discussed by the Board. A possible location at the intersection of Linton Drive and Dry Hollow Road was discussed. The Director will check on ownership of the property and report back to the Board.

The Director discussed trail development efforts by the Allamakee County Tourism Office. There had been a series of meeting regarding possible trail development options.

The Postville Trail Line land ownership issue was discussed by the Board. The Director will follow up with the County Attorney to discuss legal possibilities of the County selling the property. It was discussed the best way of selling the property would be to take sealed bids. The Director will meet with the County Attorney prior to the May Conservation Board Meeting.

Information was provided to the Board on the upcoming Mississippi River Parkway Commission meeting being held April 10, 2012 at 3:00 P.M. at the McGregor Cultural and Arts Center. The meeting may provide information on possible funding for the Conservation Board's Education and Interpretive Center on the Columbus Property.

The part-time summer job openings had been advertised in the local paper and posted in all the Community Schools in Allamakee County. The applications are to be returned and interviews completed prior to the May Board meeting. The approval of hiring the positions will be placed on the May Conservation Board agenda for approval.

The Board will hold the May monthly meeting at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday May 1, 2012 in the Board Office.

There being no additional business, a motion was made by Clark to adjourn the meeting, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.