

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board meet in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday May 1, 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. Present from the public was Earl Jones, Bruce Plomborg, and Dave Duncklee. Also present were 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.

Earl Jones discussed the Ion Bridge Canoe Access. Jones inquired regarding the location of the canoe access. The location of the access was described as the upstream side of the bridge on the south side of the river. The access location was referenced as the road to the old Bill Arid farm. Jones was concerned that there was a canoe access at the location. Jones stated he was informed by the County Engineer that there was not to be any canoe access at the bridge. Board members asked Jones if there had been any trespass issues or property damage to or on his property. He responded there had not been any issues. The Board asked Jones to contact the Board if there were any issues at the location.

Claims were reviewed and approved by the Board. Revenues balances had not changed other than additional interest in the REAP account. The Board discussed the loss of the construction line item. The Conservation Board will approach the Board of Supervisors regarding amending the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget. Ending balances of the current fiscal year budget was discussed. Ending expenditures of the current fiscal year were discussed by the Board. Possible expenditures to be paid out of the current fiscal year budget included LP fuel, IACCB dues, sign orders from Prison Industries, materials for the information Kiosk at New Albin Park, well capping at the Columbus Property, and any balances on account with Mohn Surveying and Engineering.

The Board discussed the Postville Trail Line. The Director had discussed the matter with the Allamakee County Attorney. The Director informed the Board that he had contacted Fayette and Winneshiek County Conservation Boards. Winneshiek County is planning on holding onto their interest in the property they purchased. The Allamakee County Attorney encouraged the Allamakee County Conservation Board to hold onto the property and not recommend to the Board of Supervisors to sell the property. The reasoning was that once the property is sold it will never be able to be purchased back. The use of the property may not happen for many years but still will be possible if the property is owned by the County. The Director will make contact with landowners to discuss the Counties position on ownership.

The hiring of part-time summer positions for the Conservation Board was discussed by the Board. Interviews for the positions were conducted on April 27, 2012. A motion was made by Carroll to approve the hiring of Allison Brennan, Shannon Plaht, and Lowell Stuart for the temporary part-time summer positions at the rate of \$8.00 per hour, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. Starting dates for the positions will vary during the month of May.

The REAP Grant the Conservation Board is planning on submitting was discussed. The grant is due the 15th of August 2012. The grant preparation time will be longer than other grants due to the length of the grant application. The Director will research the projected funding levels in the County Conservation

REAP Grant Account and base the grant request amount on funding availability. The Director will also certify the percentage of local match.

The Allamakee County Community Foundation grant submitted earlier in the year was recently funded at \$5,000.00. The Director placed the fund into the Allamakee County Conservation Board Special Project Account.

Status of accounts with Mohn Engineering and Surveying was discussed by the Board. The Director informed the Board he had been in contact with Roger Mohn regarding the statement for work completed at Stonebrook Park and the other two open accounts. The Board would like to have the accounts closed by the end of the current fiscal year. The Director will make contact with Roger Mohn.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding the recent meeting with the Canadian Pacific Rail Road regarding the MRT project. The meeting further revealed that the Rail Road is not going to cooperate with the County on using any right-of-way. The Columbus Bridge property river access was discussed by the Board. The Director informed the Board that a representative from the Canadian Pacific who was attended the meeting agreed to be a point of contact for the Columbus Project.

Well capping at the Columbus Property was discussed by the Board. A Okay Well Drilling was the low bid for capping the well at \$462.86. A motion was made by Carroll to accept the low bid from A Okay Well Drilling for capping the well at the Columbus Property, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director presented information to the Board regarding recent trails meetings. The meetings have been hosted by the Allamakee County Tourism and Economic Development Office and attended by the Conservation Board Director, members of the Board of Supervisors, County Engineer, and representatives of various Cities in Allamakee County. The main focuses of the past meetings have been to identify possible trail development options in Allamakee County. The next meeting will be held at the Conservation Board Office at 9:00 A.M. Tuesday May 15, 2012. The Conservation Board Director is organizing the meeting and will view trail development options from Harpers Ferry to Waukon Junction to Waterville. If time permits the group will view other trail development options.

Updates were provided to the Board on the Zoll property. Permits had been completed containing the approval of the Upper Iowa River Drainage Board. This permit had been forwarded to the Army Corps of Engineers for their approval. Additional permit work for the Iowa DNR had been completed with the assistance from the Allamakee County Engineers Office. The work completed by the Engineers Department included creating a topographic image of the area and an elevation cross section. Fencing requests from an adjoining landowner was discussed; no action was taken on the matter.

The next Conservation Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 5, 2012 in the Board Office.

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