

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday October 2, 2012 at the Columbus Bridge Property. The Board completed the annual fall field day beginning at the Columbus Bridge Property. The Board then traveled to the following areas in order; New Albin Roadside Park, Ray's Landing at Morgan Bridge, and the County Home. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Dave Carroll, Marilyn Clark, and Bill Moody. Also present was Board Staff Member Jim Janett. Attendances from the public were as follows: Ric Zarwell, Bruce Plomborg, John Rethwisch, Lansing Mayor Joe Strobel, Heath Draeger, Ray Wagner, John O'Hara, Doug Mullin, Bill Burke, Gary Graphl, and Allamakee County Auditor Pam Benjegerdes. Other meeting with the Conservation Board during the course of the field day included Board Of Supervisor Lennie Burke, Dave Stanley from Bear Creek Archeology, and Jim Hitchins.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M. and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Claims and revenues were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Updates were provided to the Board on the Power Plant Trail status. Board staff completed five working days on the trail removing rock and seeding the roadway. Seed type being used was a premixed water way seed. The cost of seed for the project to this point totaled \$325.00. Approximately half the road has been completed. Problems have occurred with heavy vehicle traffic during the weekends. The road may have to be closed to vehicle traffic in the future in order for vegetation to get established. The Director discussed the Board of Supervisors meeting held on Monday September 17, 2012 when adjoining landowner Rollie Buckmaster presented his discontentment to the trail project. The Director also informed the Board about meeting with the Board of Supervisors, County Engineer, and Rollie Buckmaster on October 1, 2012 to view the trail. The Director informed the Board about Buckmaster's request to the Board of Supervisors to vacate approximately four hundred yards of County Road Right of Way that runs past where the current gate is placed, and to have the roadway gated on the north end of the road so no vehicle traffic would be allowed. The Board instructed the Director to keep them informed regarding any other issues with the trail. Director informed the Board that work will continue this fall on rock removal and seeding on the roadway.

Ric Zarwell from Lansing discussed his past involvement with the Audubon's Society and other Birding Programs he has development. He provided the Board with a draft proposal for an Education Initiative for the Driftless Area Education Center and the Upper Mississippi River Region. Different partnership opportunities were discussed by the Board. Items discussed included the structure and function of the proposal, the target audiences, the target regions, and schedule options. The Board conveyed to Zarwell the proposal would fit into the intended usage of the Education Center and will continue to coordinate with him in the future. The development of other educational components of the Education Center was discussed by the Board with Zarwell.

The Conservation Board opened the meeting up for public comment. Doug Mullin spoke regarding the Columbus Property Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. Mullin informed the Conservation Board he supported the proposed project but thought additional property should be secured for development and future expansion. The Board conveyed that negotiations were currently underway for additional area. The City of Lansing asked the Conservation Board to attend a Lansing City Council meeting to

answer questions about the facility. A November 5th Council meeting date was picked. Projected grant funding updates and Foundation fund raising functions were discussed.

The Board discussed the joint Conservation Board and Foundation meeting being held November 6, 2012. A fund raising program will be presented by RC&D staff regarding the Education and Visitor Center. The Board discussed the possibility of beginning the November meeting at 11:00 A.M. to conduct the business portion of the meeting. The Director will send out a communication prior to the meeting to check Board Member availability.

The Board completed the business portion of the meeting and began the field tour portion of the meeting. New construction was viewed at the New Albin Roadside Park.

Next stop on the field day tour was the Morgan Bridge on the Upper Iowa River to view the recently donated Ray's Landing Canoe Access. Board of Supervisors Lennie Burke joined the Conservation Board at the Morgan Bridge. Also attending the meeting at the Morgan Bridge location was Jim Hitchins. Hitchins fencing concerns were presented and discussed by the Board. Conservation Board fencing responsibility was discussed. The Conservation Board did not feel it was their responsibility to fence to keep Hitchins cattle out. With the thought of keeping good neighbors, the Board agreed to fence from the bridge guard rail across the riprap to flat ground where a gate will be installed. The gate will be open until late fall when cattle are set out. The fence will continue from the gate to where the stream bank became too steep for cattle to access. The temporary fence installed by Hitchins prior to the Conservation Board ownership will be set back in place until next season. The Board will monitor the fencing arrangement and noted reserving the right to discontinue fencing should high water conditions or any other issue become problematic.

The Board then traveled to the County Home to view the Historic Kennan Cabin location. The Board also met with Dave Stanley from Bear Creek Archeology. The purpose of meeting with Stanley was to view the site and discuss the costs associated with completing an archeology survey of the site. The process on having the site added to the National Register of Historical Places was discussed. An estimated cost of \$15,000.00 was presented to the Board. This would include the completed site survey and the application process for being placed on the National Register of Historical Places. Stanley noted that he would donate some of Bear Creek Archeology's services for in kind grant match. Various grant opportunities and application time frames were discussed. No action was taken on this matter. The Director will also research other funding opportunities to complete the survey and National Register application process.

There being no additional business a motion was made Clark to adjourn the meeting, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.