

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday April 2, 2013 in the Board office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Bill Moody, and Gary Soper. Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Dennis Koenig. Present from the public was Bruce Plomborg, Paul Melsha, Kristy Sheldon, and Robert Nehman.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Board welcomed newly appointed Board Member Jeanie Carroll to the Conservation Board.

Claims, revenues, and current fiscal year budget balances were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Robert Nehman representing Allamakee County Protectors presented information to the Conservation Board regarding Frac Sand Mining. The presentation provided a historical prospective of Frac Sand Mining operations in Wisconsin, present local government actions in the tri state region involving in regulating mining operations. Current efforts underway in Allamakee County to address social, economic, and environmental issues relating to Frac Sand Mining were discussed. The State of Iowa's role in developing guidelines and enforcement of regulations regarding Frac Sand Mining operations were also discussed. It was noted local government determines land use issues regarding allowable uses, permitting, and permit monitoring. After discussion on the matter was complete a motion was made by Soper to support the Board of Supervisors decision to place an eighteen month moratorium on any Frac Sand Mining permits in Allamakee County, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried.

A Conservation Easement had been submitted to the Board for review from Chuck Jackman. The easement was reviewed by the Conservation Board. The Board will submit the easement to the County Attorney for review. The review and approval process for adopting a conservation easement was reviewed by the Board. It was noted the Board of Supervisors need to review and approve a conservation easement prior to the Conservation Board entering into an easement.

Kristy Sheldon representing the Falcon Education Day discussed a donation for the environmental day being held May 2&3, 2013 at Nobles Island. A motion was made by Moody to donate \$300.00 to the Education Day, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed a number of information items and old business. The Director provided information from an ISAC training session on grant auditing and accounting practices. The Allamakee County Community Foundation Grant application awards are to be announced in the near future, the Board had submitted a grant for interpretive services for the Columbus Education and Visitor Center. The Director will inform the Board once the grants are awarded. Bids for stream bank stabilization and shaping of handicapped fishing access sidewalks to be completed on Village Creek at the Columbus Property had been let. Bids are to be returned by Friday April 12, 2013. The Director will coordinate a meeting date to open the bids with the Board Chairperson.

The Iowa DNR Upper Iowa Water Trail designation was discussed by the Board; the Director informed the Board if an IDNR representative contacts him he will place the item on the Board's agenda.

Permit updates were provided to the Board. Permits included the Morgan Bridge Canoe Access, stream bank stabilization at Waterville Farm 55, and construction permits for the shelter house at Stone Brook Park.

Information was provided to the Board regarding Road #527 south of the Power Plant. The County Engineer has been in contact with Raleigh Buckmaster regarding expanding the turn around on the south end of the road. There had also been some contact between Alliant Energy and the County Engineer reference the road usage.

Board Members Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, and the Director had recently met with Lansing Mayor Mike Verdon to discuss the Education and Visitor Center. A possible date for being placed on the City of Lansing Council meeting was discussed. Verdon will be in contact with the Board about a possible meeting date.

The Director will be placing an order for trees to be planted on the property line at Stone Brook Park.

The Director informed the Board that he would be writing two requests for proposals, for the Columbus property, one for architectural and engineering services and one for interpretive display design and construction.

The Board was updated on the Naturalist position applications. Applications were still coming in and the closing date was not until the 5th of April. Once all applications had been received the director would compile a list and send it out to the Board.

The date and time of the next meeting will be May 7th at 1:00 at the Board office.

A motion was made by Soper to adjourn the meeting, second Carroll, all in favor the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

