

Draft

Minutes from the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday August 5, 2014 at the Allamakee County Conservation Board Office at 427 N. First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. The meeting was a joint meeting between the Allamakee County Conservation Board and the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation. Conservation Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, and Dennis Koenig. Present from the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation was Clem Schulte, Dave Duncklee, and Jane Reagan. Present from the public was Gary Grafle, Steve Casterton, Ralph Savoy, Laura Eddy, and Ellen Hongerholt. Allamakee County Conservation Board staff members Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes were present.

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

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances were review and approved by the Board.

Field operation updates were provided to the Board. Items included the fishing float being set at the Harpers Ferry Landing, completed access improvements at Bridge 16, poured concrete sidewalks completed at Columbus, additional fill placed at Ray's Landing, flood damage repair updates, completed pond dike repair at Clear Creek, and preparing Harpers Sough Fishing Access sidewalks for pouring concrete sidewalks. The Director discussed having Meyer Concrete help pour the sidewalks at Harpers Slough Fishing Access, Meyer's was low bid on the Columbus sidewalk project and will work on the Harpers Slough project for the same rate. A motion was made by Clark to have Meyer Concrete help complete the concrete work for the handicapped fishing access sidewalk at Harpers Slough Fishing Access Area, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director discussed the FEMA process for filing for damage on County Parks during the June 2014 disaster period. Most of the damage at Allamakee County Parks was loss of gravel on parking areas, debris removal, and erosion on new seeding. The Director informed the Board there was a possibility of receiving some FEMA Preventive Measures cost share for concreting the sidewalks at Harpers Slough, Bridge Sixteen, and Columbus.

The Board was informed of vehicle, boat, and equipment storage at various boat landings. The problem occurring are seasonal residences and their guests using the boat landings for storage. The activity causes a shortage of parking spaces and limits boater access to the river. Attempts to correct the problem will begin with signage.

Staff had received comments about boat wake issues at the Village Creek Boat Landing; the Director had been in contact with the IDNR Park Ranger about setting No Wake buoys in Village Creek. The possibility of setting No Wake Signs on the County Bridge was discussed. The Director will make contact with the County Engineer about the placing signs on the County Bridge.

The Director provided the Board with updates on the Columbus Property and the Visitor Center. Items included the completion of the concrete handicapped fishing access sidewalks, no wake boating issue, and waiting for the IDOT to approve the consulting contracts. The Director noted there is still additional

concrete to pour on the river side of the sidewalk to prevent high water from eroding under the sidewalks.

Other informational items presented to the Board included the use of Waterville Farm 55 for a Boy Scout camp out, L.P. bids being let and awarded to Fauser Oil for \$1.39 -08.

The Board discussed different grant funding opportunities for the Columbus Property Education and Visitor Center. Some of the possible grant funding sources included a REAP County Grant, Iowa Economic Development Community Development Grant, and the R.J. Mc Elroy Foundation Trust.

The Board discussed the IACCB dues payment. The Director will coordinate a meeting with a representative to discuss the due structure.

Conducting a Fall Field Day for the Conservation Board was discussed. The Board will look at conducting a field day on Tuesday October 7, 2014.

The joint meeting between the Conservation Board and the Conservation Foundation began at 2:20 P.M. Two fund raising consultants were interviewed for assisting with fund raising efforts for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. The two consulting firms interviewed were Crescendo Consulting and Consult Savoy. The first interview was conducted with Consult Savoy and the second interview was with Crescendo. After the interviews were completed the interviews were discussed. It was clarified that the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation will retain which ever consultant was selected. The Conservation Foundation decided to check on references of both consultants and make a selection at the next Foundation meeting. The Foundation set the next meeting date for 3:30 P.M. Tuesday August 26, 2014.

There being no additional business, a motion was made by Carroll to adjourn, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.