

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 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 and Dennis Koenig. Conservation Board staff members present were as follows: Ross Geerdes, Jackie Jellings, and Jarrod Olson. Present from the public were as follows: Dan Byrnes, Natalic Byrnes, Mark Reiser, Gene Averhoff, Bruce Palmborg, Betty Larsen, Mary Keatley, and Tom Fritz.

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

Claims were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Assistant Director, Jarrod Olson, opened the floor for public comment, no comments were made from the public.

Updates on current grants, fundraising and construction for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center were provided to the Board. The Director will not be attending the next CAT Board review meeting on March 9th, 2016 in Des Moines. Nicole Shalla, Vision Iowa Boards' Administrator, will be presenting our updates to the CAT Board. Work completed this month would include: elevator shaft to main floor, floor trusses, second level structural steel, and main floor exterior walls. The Board reviewed and approved the fourth contractor claim, totaling \$29,662.80 to be reimbursed by the National Scenic Byway Grant. A motion was made by Carroll to approve Cresco Builders claim for \$29,662.80, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center fundraising updates were provided to the Board. McElroy Challenge due date is April 20th and private fundraising is still ongoing.

Assistant Director asked the Board for approval on the Fish Habitat Grant contract for Clear Creek Park. The Board decided to table the approval and wait for all bids to be submitted before approval.

Field operations updates were provided to the Board. The progress on the posting of the Postville Trail Line Property is still ongoing. The Director is collaborating with Jill Kistler, Allamakee County Attorney, to finalize public notice. Once the public notice is finalized, it will then be sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The Assistant Director informed the Board on the preparations for spring projects with Luster Heights Inmates, placing docks back in the water, opening public restrooms, brush clearing at Clear Creek Park, grade work and pouring of the sidewalk approach at Nobles Island restrooms, and dirt work at the Waterville Park.

Ross Geerdes, Allamakee County Conservation Naturalist, provided educational program updates to the Board. He has had multiple snowshoe programs, attend Winter Fest in Lansing, started making bird and bat houses with Jarrod Olson, attended Eagle Days in Prairie du Chen, and had multiple programs with the surround schools. Geerdes is also preparing for the spring by: providing hunter safety class with the Waukon Middle School, hosting a family bird house program, participating in Falcon Days with Iowa DNR Biologist, and continuing school programs.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be Tuesday April 5th, 2016 at 1:00 P.M at the Board office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa.

There being no additional business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second by Koenig; all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.