

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in special session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday April 25, 2014 in the Board of Supervisors Office located in the Allamakee County Courthouse 110 Allamakee Street Waukon, Iowa. This meeting is one week earlier than the regularly scheduled meeting and will replace the April 1, 2014 meeting. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. During the course of the meeting the following people were in attendance: Lyle TeKippe, County Engineer Brian Ridenour, Zoning Administrator Tom Blake, Bruce Palmborg, and Kristi Sheldon.

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

The Conservation Board welcomed newly appointed Conservation Board Member Dennis Koenig to the Board.

Claims and expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Board discussed the consulting services contract with Lyle TeKippe from Fehr Graham Engineering for the Columbus Property Education and Visitor Center. Fehr Graham is the principle on the contract with subcontractors being Martin Gardner for architectural and Split Rock Studios for interpretive services. The total of the consulting services contract is \$319,835.00. 80% of the total will be reimbursed by the National Scenic Byway Grant leaving \$63,967.00 for the Board to fund. The Board received a \$17,000.00 grant from the Allamakee County Community Foundation for matching funds and has an active grant submitted to the Foundation for additional matching funds that should be announced in the near future. REAP funds will be used for the balance of the 20% not covered by other grants. A motion was made by Carroll to approve the contract, second Clark, in favor Blocker, Carroll, Clark, Koenig, opposed Moody. Motion carried.

The location of a bus turnaround area for the Columbus Property was discussed by the Board. The Kerndt family would like to provide an area for a bus turnaround .8 of a mile down Columbus Road. There would be no area for additional parking at the site. The Kerndt family was also interested in allowing an easement across their property if the Conservation Board were to ever place a bridge across Village Creek allowing access to the center from Village Creek boat landing.

The Issue of obtaining a variance for parking on County road right of way was discussed by the Board. Zoning Administrator Tom Blake stated it would really be a twofold variance, one how much parking is actually needed, and two how much of that parking would be on the right of way. Blake also stated that the variance board would need the approval of the Supervisors and the County Engineer before they would pass such a variance. The Director will submit a preliminary plan to the supervisors and engineer Ridenour for their possible approval. The Director will also do a survey of other County Conservation Boards that have similar centers, to get an idea of the size of their buildings and the amount of parking that they have. The Board would also develop some onsite parking for staff personnel at the Columbus property.

The Director updated the Board on the FEMA reimbursements. Everything had been completed except a final close out meeting. The Board would be receiving \$30,569.23. The Board would get 85% of that amount back right away and another 10% once it had been approved by the State.

A number of informational items were presented to the Board. Items included the following: needed repair work to the Clear Creek Park pond dike, the need to have bid specifications written for curb and sidewalk paving at the recently completed handicapped fishing sidewalk on Village Creek at the Columbus Property, and the placement of a portable restroom at the Columbus Property. A 2014 spring work list was provided to the Board. The Director informed the Board that the County Conservation Directors Association had amended their bylaws to state, that any Conservation Board that was not a member of the IACCB could not be a member of the Director's Association. The Director informed the Board that since the supervisors contributed \$100,000 bridge money to help in funding the Scenic Byways Grant, it was his thoughts to try to conserve as much money in this year's fiscal budget as possible to turn back in to go towards that \$100,000.

Kristi Sheldon Spoke to the Board about her concerns with frac sand mining in the County. She was concerned that all of the information the Allamakee County Supervisors had received was studies done in Wisconsin and Minnesota. She thought there needed to be some studies done right here in Allamakee County so the Supervisors were as well informed as possible. She thought possibly contacting the Geology Department from the University of Iowa, the NRCS, or the Army Corps of Engineers to see if there was anything they could do.

The next meeting will be Tuesday May 6th at 1:00 P.M. at the Board Office.

There being no additional information or business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.