

Draft Minutes

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 Tuesday September 6, 2011 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Dave Carroll, Dave Duncklee, Bill Moody and Gary Soper. Attending from the public was Bruce Plomborg. Also present was Board staff members Jim Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Blocker, second Duncklee, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed the different building locations that Lansing City Council Person / Lansing resident Bill Burke had suggested the Conservation Board consider as alternative building location. The Board was not interested in pursuing any of the proposed areas. The Director was instructed to draft a letter to both Mayor Don Peters and Bill Burke reflecting the Conservation Board's position on the three proposed areas. The Board also instructed the Director to make contact with Jim Kerndt regarding the possible of lease of the Kerndt Family historical river front buildings. The Board didn't want to totally abandon the proposal but felt there were many obstacles that would make using the buildings difficult for the public. Considerations included train traffic, handicapped accessibility, parking, and long term maintenance. Board Members commented on the importance of the historical preservation of the structures and the wonderful river views from the property.

IIW Engineers report prepared for the Conservation Board on options and cost estimates for providing water and sewer to the Columbus Bridge Property was reviewed and discussed by the Board. The conclusion of the report suggested that providing a well for water and geothermal along with a waste handling facility on site maybe the best option for the Board to pursue. Should annexing of the Columbus Property be a priority for the City of Lansing in the near future, the Conservation Board would be interested in discussing possible cost share options. Should the City of Lansing annex the property in an undetermined future time, the Board could then consider hooking up to City of Lansing Services. The Board instructed the Director to draft a letter to Lansing Mayor Don Peters and inquire if in fact the City of Lansing would possibly annex to the South of Lansing, and if so, what the possible time frame would be to annex.

Building conditions at various Conservation Board locations were discussed by the Board. The need to have roofing repair on shelters house, replacement of gutters, information kiosks and signs will be needed in the future. The Director will keep the Board informed on structure conditions and funding options on needed repairs.

The food plot at Waterville Farm 55 was discussed by the Board. The Board instructed the Director to make contact with McCormick Farms and see if they would be interested in completing the food plot each year with the same crop they are planting in their adjoining fields.

Claims and revenue summaries were submitted and reviewed by the Board.

Field operations updates were provided to the Board. Items included progress on the shelter house at the County Home and work completed on the silt retention holding pond, and time frame for surfacing at Nobles Island. Progress on Stone Brook Park was also discussed.

The Auditors Office has received the IDNR REAP Certification Form and is due back to the IDNR October 1, 2011. The Director noted there was some figure inaccuracies in the draft report that was provided by the Auditors Office. The Director will be following up with the Auditors Office for clarification.

Stone Brooke Park planning was discussed by the Board. The Director informed the Board that additional grade work was in the process of being completed with assistance from the Secondary Department. It was noted that a Flood Plains Permit would have to be applied for due to the proposed shelter house location being in the flood plain. Design on a shelter house was discussed by the Board. The Director had suggested a shelter that would incorporate stone columns with a possible stone fireplace. The design concept would be similar to CCC shelters build in Northeast Iowa. Board members commented that the design concept is good, but construction maybe to costly. The Director will research possible grant options and different design options.

Three different Fish Habitat Grant opportunities were discussed by the Board. Projects to be considered included the silt retention pond worked completed at the County Home, stream bank stabilization on the Yellow River at Volney Park, and phase two stream bank improvements at the Columbus Property. The items will be further discussed as an agenda item during the October Board meeting.

Other informational items discussed by the Board included the following: computer pricing, sprayer purchase, upcoming education programs, information kiosk construction at New Albin, and IACCB conference registration.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Duncklee to adjourn the meeting, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.