

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session Tuesday December 2nd, 2014 at 1P.M. in the board office at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marylin Clark, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. Present from the public was Paul Melsha. Also present was Conservation Board staff members Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes.

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

Claims and revenues were reviewed by the Board.

The Director updated the Board on the Scenic Byways Grant reimbursement process. Claims from Fehr Graham would be paid out of the special projects account and once the reimbursement was complete from the Iowa DOT the money would be put back into the same account.

The Director informed the Board of an upcoming meeting January 15th at the Kerndt Brothers Community Center in Lansing. The meeting will be an evening meeting open to the public where Split Rock Studios will present their Schematic Design II Package for the Education and Visitor Center. The Director encouraged all Board members to attend.

The possibility of upcoming grants for the Education and Visitor Center were discussed. The Director informed the Board that he would more than likely be submitting as many grants as possible for the Center. Some possible grants, that would be coming up included the CAT grant, Community Foundation Grant, McElroy Foundation, Reap, as well as several others. The Board encouraged the Director to obtain as many grants as he could.

The Director updated the Board on the on going water meter situation with the City of Lansing and People's Services. George Tekippe of Fehr Graham had gone to the Lansing city council meeting to discuss a proposal to eliminate the six inch meter and instead install a series of smaller valves that would be able to accomplish the same thing. The council seemed receptive to the idea, but seemed more concerned about who would pay for a leak if there ever was one. Tekippe informed the council that he would write up a contract to be signed by both the City Council and the Conservation Board stating that if there was a leak the Conservation Board would be responsible for payment.

The Director gave the Board an update on ongoing Foundation business. It had been decided to increase the number of members on the Foundation Board. Several people were being contacted to see if they would be interested in serving on the Board. The Foundation Board was also in the process of selecting and creating its steering committee for the fundraising project.

The Board discussed the hiring of a part-time office employee to handle some office tasks as well as some online media marketing for the Conservation Board and the Foundation. Other responsibilities would include some clerical work for the foundation. It was the thought of the

Director and the Board that the candidate pool could be widened by making the position a permanent part-time position versus a temporary part-time position. It was the consensus of the Board that the pay of the position would be based on experience.

In old business the Board discussed the Postville Trail Line. It was agreed that the board either needed to make some improvements to the property or sell it. After some discussion a motion was made by Moody to sell the property, seconded by Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The Director will contact the supervisors and County attorney to begin the process of selling the property by sealed bid.

The election of officers was held. A motion was made by Clark to keep Blocker as Chair Person seconded by Carroll all in favor motion carried. Moody nominated Clark as Vice Chair which was seconded by Koenig. Blocker will remain Chair Person with Clark as Vice Chair.

Other informational items discussed by the board included, a meeting held with the new manager of the Alliant Power plant. The manager expressed interest in serving on the Foundation and would work with the building architect for any energy saving rebates. The Director informed the Board that FEMA had been finalized and he was waiting for reimbursement. Board Member Marilyn Clark was informed that her term on the Conservation Board would expire January of 2015. Clark said she would take a reappointment. The Board members submitted mileage.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be January 6th, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. in the Board Office.

There being no additional business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark and seconded by Koenig. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.