

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday March 4, 2014 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, and Marilyn Clark. Present from the public was representative from the Board of Supervisors Dennis Koenig, from the public Bruce Palmborg, Lyle Tekippe, Mark Moine, and County Engineer Brian Ridenour. Board staff in attendance included Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes.

The minutes from the February 4, 2014 Board meeting were read and approved.

Claims and Expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Olson and Janett have been working with a representative from FEMA and the reimbursement is nearing completion. A final meeting will take place later in February. The Director indicated the FEMA reimbursement should be more than the first FEMA representative projected. Gravel for the Middle Area and picnic tables still need to be included. The reimbursement from FEMA and the Fish Habitat grant will require a budget amendment.

The Director updated the Board on the possibility of acquiring some additional area for a bus turn around and overflow parking for the Columbus Property. The Director will meet with the landowner in the near future to discuss the possibility.

The Contracts for consulting services with the Martin Gardener, Fehr Graham and Split Rock Studios were reviewed. The possibility of separating the contract into individual contracts for each firm was discussed. The consulting firms were still waiting for a response from IDOT regarding if there will be one or two contracts.

Dave Moine and Lyle Tekippe presented the Board with the cost projections for the Education and Visitors Center. An outline of the original estimate from 12/06/2011, the estimate from the IDOT application, and estimates from 2/10/2014 were given. The estimation from 2/10/2014 reflects the changes to using city water and sewer and civil engineering fees. A total estimate of \$3.2 million was presented. They also noted that IDOT is allowing a local bid letting and actual costs will be reflected when the bids are in.

Operations and Education updates were given to the board. Planning continues on park development with information being collected by Olson about the history of the stone house at Stonebrooke Park. Olson and Geerdes have been teaching Hunters Safety at the Waterville Elementary.

County Engineer Brian Ridenour gave the board an update on the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) and plans going forward. Ridenour presented the MRT study and the priorities that have been set by the study. Options going forward include Lansing to Power Plant and from where the

existing trail north of Harpers ends to as far north on the highway as funding will allow. It was noted the portion from Lansing to the Power Plant would be difficult to complete based on the terrain and right of way issues with the railroad. The Board recommended prioritizing where the current trail ends north of Harpers Ferry as far north as funding permits.

An update on the budget for fiscal year 2014/2015 was given to the Board. The Board discussed funds that could possibly be used for interim financing for reimbursements for the National Scenic Byway Grant.

Announcements for summer positions will be posted in the next month.

Several grants for the Columbus Property are being explored including grants from the Allamakee County Community Foundation, the McElroy Trust, REAP and Tap Grants.

The Board discussed the possible need for a special meeting before the April Board meeting. The Director will communicate to the Board if a special meeting is necessary, otherwise the next Board meeting will be April 1, 2014 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 3:50 P.M.