

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday May 6, 2014 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. During the course of the meeting the following people were in attendance: Paul Melsha, Bruce Palmborg, and Don Gibson. Board Staff Members in attendance were James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

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

The Board reviewed claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances. With 83.29% of the fiscal year completed the Board had used 98.37% of the budget. The Director informed the Board funds from the Fish Habitat Grant and Motor Vehicle Tax reimbursements that were recently amended are not reflected in the percentages. The Director projected an approximate balance of \$25,000.00 to finish the current fiscal year. The following fund balances were provided to the Board. \$204,126.66 REAP Account, \$36,610.43 Conservation Special Project Account, and \$11,275.75 Conservation Reserve Account. The Director noted the increase in the Special Projects Account was from the Grant recently received from the Allamakee County Community Foundation for the Driftless Area Visitor and Education Center.

FEMA funds recently received were discussed by the Board. The funds were received after the Allamakee County Auditor conducted a budget amendment and were not included in the amendment. A motion was made by Carroll to have the FEMA revenue placed in the Conservation Reserve Account, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried. The Director will make contact with the Auditor's Office about having the funds placed into the Conservation Reserve Account.

Information was presented to the Board about possible grant funding from the McElroy Trust for interpretive displays for the Driftless Area Visitor and Education Center.

Part-time summer positions were discussed by the Board. Past summer employees Shannon Plaht and Ethan Halverson are planning to return. The Board viewed six applications submitted from the job posting. Staff members Janett and Olson will conduct interviews for the position and will select a person for the remaining summer position.

Updates were provided to the Board on the Columbus Property. A Board of Adjustment variance hearing for parking on County Road Right of Way is set for 4:30 P.M. Wednesday May 14, 2014. The item had been recently placed on the Board of Supervisors agenda and approved by both the Supervisors and the County Engineer. The Director will post an agenda for Conservation Board Members that may attend the hearing. The consulting contracts for the Scenic Byway Grant were having financial audits completed by the State of Iowa and should be complete in the near future. A map of the vehicle turnaround area .8ths of mile down Columbus Drive were reviewed by the Board. The Director will be in contact with the County Attorney to create an easement for the turnaround area.

Bids for paving the sidewalk on the fishing access at the Columbus Property were opened by the Board. The Bids were as follows: Heim Concrete \$13,280.00, Meyer Concrete \$4,635.75, Kelly Concrete \$9,650.00 and Walleaser Concrete \$7,949.00. A motion was made by Koenig to get clarification on one bid and to select the lowest bidder for the project, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director presented a number of informational items to the Board. Items discussed included location of sidewalks at Stone Brooke Park, design of the historical information kiosk at Stone Brooke, the replacement of the entrance sign on State Highway 26 at the New Albin Park, the need for additional fill at Ray's Landing. Other items included the work recently completed by Nick Jones on the Halverson addition next to Kolsrud Park, the planting of food plots at Waterville Farm 55, and the placement of a culvert on White Pine Drive for access on the east side of Farm 55.

Other informational items provided to the Board included communication updates to the Board from IACCB Board Members regarding membership, additional mowing at the County Home, mower and loader pricings. Information was provided to the Board about the replacement of electronic sensor flush valves at various restrooms with manual paddle flush valves. Vehicle fuel purchase locations were discussed with the Board. Other informational items discussed by the Board included the preservation of historic Monsrud and Red School Bridges, and Allamakee County Conservation Foundation activities relating to fund raising for the Education and Visitor Center

The Director reminded Board Members to submit Board Member Mileage at the June Board meeting.

The next Conservation Board meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday June 3, 2014.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Clark to adjourn the meeting, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.