

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session Tuesday April 7th, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. at the Kerndt Brothers Community Center in Lansing, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marylin Clark, and Bill Moody. Present Conservation Board staff members were Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes. Present from the public was Bruce Palmborg, Joey and Raleigh Buckmaster, Joe Cunningham, Paul Melsha, and Allamakee County Supervisor Dan Byrnes. Present from Martin Gardner Architecture was Mark Moines and Brian Stark. Attending from Fehr Graham Engineering was Lyle Tekippe. Mary Stallhut of the Iowa DOT and Wendy Scardino of Amperage Fundraising were also in attendance.

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.

With the interviews for the Office Manager position complete, the Board discussed the hiring of Jackie Jellings as the Office Manager. Jackie would be working one to two days a week until she started full time on May 11th. The position would be paid hourly at a rate of \$13.50 for a 90 day probation period, which would start May 11th. Once the 90 day probationary period was up the position would be salaried at \$30,000/year. A motion was made by Carroll to hire Jackie Jellings as the office manager with the salary agreement as stated above, seconded by Moody all in favor motion carried.

Conservation Board Staff had recently completed interviews for part time seasonal help. Two of the three positions had been offered to and accepted by Brody Vanderkolk of Waterville, and Matt Manning of Lansing the final position would be offered by the end of the week.

The Director updated the Board on the field operations and construction projects. The shelter at the Halvorson Property and the walkway at the Harpers Slough area are ready to go and work could begin at any time. The Nobles Island restroom replacement was discussed it was the thought of the Director that the current restroom should be closed to use and a portable restroom placed on site due to the current pit leaking. The restroom at Ray's Landing had been vandalized a second time. The Army Corp of Engineers is doing an Island restoration project on the Mississippi River between Lansing and Harpers Ferry. Corp staff would likely be using Heytman's landing as an access point for the project. Three trees were removed from the Columbus site, and staff would be looking into purchasing three benches for the handicapped walkway. The portable restroom will be placed on site in the near future. Conservation Board Staff would also be participating in County Government Week at the Court House this week.

The Board then began a work session with Fehr Graham Engineering, Martin Gardner Architecture, Amperage Fundraising, and Mary Stallhut of the Iowa DOT. Lyle Tekippe of Fehr Graham gave an update on progress being made, the only changes that had been made since the last meeting was the discussion of possibly extending the street paving farther around the corner on Columbus Drive per the request of the County Engineer. The plans for the project had been submitted to the Iowa DOT for their approval. Mary Stallhut of the Iowa DOT said the DOT would make sure the plans comply with Federal regulations. She also reiterated that the funds

from the National Scenic Byways Grant needed to be obligated by September 15th of 2015. The topic of line item changes to the Scenic Byways Grant was also discussed, Stallhut stated that it would be best to wait and submit just one request to the IDOT and Federal Highway Administration with all the line item changes. Stallhut noted if the fundraising did not go as planned that we would not want to reject all the bids submitted, but identify high end items in the bid specs that may be cut out, so we don't lose the Scenic Byways Grant. Allamakee County Supervisor Dan Byrnes expressed his concern that he doesn't want the fundraising to fall short and the County be left with the bill. There was also some discussion on how to finance the three year pledges. Mark Moines and Brian Stark of Martin Gardner Architecture gave an update on their building plan. A few changes to the building included removing a few windows on the East side of the building, per Split Rock's request and since the soil samples came back positive the basement would be extended out under the main floor front vestibule to provide more storage area. They had recently completed a study with Alliant Energy on the average annual operating costs for the building. It was calculated that the building would use an average of 200 KW/day for a \$480.00/month average. They were still planning to go with a pump and dump geothermal system for the building, and those plans had been approved with the Iowa DNR. Board member Dennis Blocker asked about penalties for the contractors if the building was not completed by a certain time. It was the thought of Stark and Moines to ask the bidders to submit an anticipated completion date and then attach a penalty if the work is not done by the date they say they will have it done. Wendy Scardino of Amperage Fundraising presented to the Board. She said they were finishing up the final changes on the fundraising brochures, had submitted a McElroy Trust grant and had a draft letter for the Carver Trust, which would be submitted soon. The CAT Grant was currently on hold, due to some possible changes with that grant and some others. Scardino stated how important it was for the County to be a partner in this project as much as possible, and for complete participation from all the Board members and staff. She said the Board would need to decide when they wanted to go public with the fundraising, and that the sooner ground breaking could begin the better, cause often times when people see progress they are more likely to want to contribute.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be May 5th, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. in the Board Office.

There being no additional business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark and seconded by Moody. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M..