

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session Tuesday May 5th, 2015 at 4P.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 Conservation Board staff members were Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes. Present from the public was Bruce Palmborg, Gary Krapful, and Dave Dunklee.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year account balances were reviewed by the Board.

The Board discussed the hiring and salary of part-time summer help. All three positions had been offered and accepted. Hunter Hammel of Waukon, Matt Manning of Lansing, and Brody Vanderklok of Waterville would all be starting in the near future. It was the recommendation of the Director to start the positions at \$9.00 per hour. A motion to approve the hiring and pay the three summer positions \$9.00 per hour was made was made by Clark and seconded by Carroll. Clark, Carroll, and Koenig Aye. Moody Nay Motion carried

The Director updated the Board on the field operations and construction projects. Mowing had begun. Staff had recently wrapped up a very successful bat house distribution project. The Director had been in contact with Ron Weymiller about bring the remaining fill into Ray's Landing and having Ed Blake level the fill and top it with black dirt for final grade. Naturalist Ross Geerdes had recently helped out with a program at Nobles Island dealing with Falcons. Robert Vavra was also at the program and used his boat to give students tours on the river. The Conservation Board had agreed to pay Robert for this program in the past but had never done so because the river levels were too high for Robert to take the students out on the river. With the okay of the Board the Director would like to pay Robert for his services, there were no objections from the Board. Geerdes was also coordinating monthly evening programs that would deal with topics pertaining to the Driftless Area. Geerdes was also working on coordinating a program with Gundersen Lutheran dealing with outdoor safety topics such as water, sun, insect, and plant safety.

The Director gave the Board an update on the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. Wendy Scardino of Amperage fundraising had resigned from Amperage to take another position and Justin Tolin would be heading up our fundraising campaign. The bid specs would be ready to submit very soon and baring a delay in approval of the bids the project should be ready to be put out to bid in the next month or month and a half. The Foundation was successful in receiving a \$250,000.00 McElroy Grant. In addition to the original \$250,000.00 the McElroy Trust would give another \$50,000.00 if the Conservation Foundation could get the banks in the County to donate an additional \$250,000.00 combined. Other grant opportunities coming up included a submittal to the McKnight Foundation, and continued work on the CAT and REAP grants.

The Board discussed the possibility of increasing its meeting frequency. It was the thought of the Board that if there were decisions that needed to be made in a timely manner than they would meet as frequently as needed, but would not meet to just have a meeting.

The Director gave the Board an update on Foundation activities. The fundraising campaign structure was coming together. Dan Gable, Gary and Karen Galema, and Father Ed Lectenberg

had all agreed to be honorary chairs. Jane Regan and John Verdon had agreed to be Chair persons.

In other business the Director talked to the Board about the ash tree across the street on City property and the possibility of cost sharing the expense of treating the tree for emerald ash borer with the city. The Director will report back to the Board when he has more information on cost. The Director would be putting together a cell phone package for the staff and each staff member would be required to carry a work phone. The Director and staff member Geerdes had had a claimed denied for the purchase of work boots through their uniform allotment. It was the thought of the Board to resubmit the claim, the Director will do so.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be June 9th, 2015 at 4:00P.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 5:10 P.M..