

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session Monday October 5, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. in the Board of Supervisors room located on the first floor of the Allamakee county Courthouse 110 Allamakee Street Waukon, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, Bill Moody and Jeanie Carroll. Present from the Board of Supervisors were as follows: Dennis Koenig, Larry Shellhammer, and Dan Byrnes. Conservation Board staff members present were as follows: Jim Janett, Ross Geerdes and Jackie Jellings. Present from the public were as follows: Daniel Fisher, Pat Moody, R Craig White, Bruce Palmberg, Clem Schulte, Lyle TeKippe, Brian Stark, John Verdon, Joe Papp, Raleigh Buckmaster, Ardie Kuhse, Gene Averloff, Denise Beyer, Valerie Reinke, Bill O'Connor, Kelly Meyer, Bob Hager, Kristi Hager, Lowell Engle, Bob Beach, Clark Mellick, Betty Larson, Rachele Howe, Gary Krapfl, Brian Ridenour, Mark Reiser, Mary Keatley, and Gary Galema.

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

The Public Hearing portion of the meeting was opened on the proposed drawings, specifications, and contracts for the Allamakee county Driftless Visitor Center. A number of people attending the hearing voiced concern on the project. Gene Averloff, Bob Hager, Kristi Hager, Dan Byrnes, and Mark Reiser voiced concerns on the following summarized items:

- How will it be funded and the amount currently raised?
- Are there enough funds to pay for it now?
- How will maintenance costs be paid?
- Will new employees need to be hired?
- Will there be an admission fee?
- How much has the Board of Supervisors funded and how much will they be asked to fund?
- Why do the contracts need to be signed now?
- What strings are attached to the current grants?
- Why has the fundraising not been public announced yet?
- What will the benefits be, with the completed project?

The balance of individuals who spoke voiced support for the project and encouraged the Board of Supervisors and the Conservation Board to sign the contracts.

The Board acknowledged comment's from the public. The overall project cost with combined public and private funds totaled \$3,249,738.00 Current revenues were provided which included the National Scenic Byways Grant at \$1,157,190.00, REAP Account at \$200,000.00, McElroy & Bank commitments \$500,000.00, and Foundation fundraising at \$256,136.00. The total amount committed to the project is \$2,113,326.00. The total balance of funds to be raised is \$1,136,412.00. Total project costs should be reduced from contract negotiations, possible funding from road use monies for paving, additional private fundraising, and future grants. Numerous letters from schools, communities, civic organizations were presented. Brian Stark from Martin Gardner Architecture discussed that not approving the contracts would more than likely result in the loss of the National Scenic Byway Grant and at the very least results in additional costs to go through the bid process over again. He also explained the Iowa DOT bid process and regulations, alternate sources for price deduction, and what guidelines the Board

must follow for the National Scenic Byways Grant. Stark also stated in comparison to other education centers for fixed expenses, the Center's average expenses were accurate. Kelly Meyers, from Amperage, address the importance of fundraising phases and securing half of the fundraising goal in the "quiet phase" before we start the "public phase" is a great accomplishment. Ross Geerdes, Conservation Naturalist, explained how local schools are now transporting students out of the county to get interactive education and stressed the importance of having this educational opportunity in our county. With no other comments or question, the public open hearing was closed.

The Board of Supervisors wanted clarification on voting procedures and moved to continue the public hearing portion of the meeting until Thursday October 8, 2015 at 9:30 A.M.

The Director presented the Board with the Iowa DNR Power Plant Fishing Access Area Management Agreement. A motion was made to sign the Iowa DNR Power Plant Fishing Access Area Management Agreement by Carroll, second by Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

Updates were provided to the Board on the submitted REAP grant, FEMA monies received totaling \$3,181.44 and Scenic Byway Grant reimbursements for \$47,624.54

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

Field operations updates were provided to the Board. The Harpers Slough Fishing Access Area concrete sidewalk project was near completion; Nick Jones had been contacted to assist in placing riprap along the front of the walkway. The Staff would also be using residents from Luster Heights on fall projects. Updates and repairs had been made to the Volney shelter house and Morgan Bridge Canoe Access.

Ross Geerdes updated the Board on his current school and library programs. He also stated the success of 35 students attended the Hunter Safety Education Class.

There being no additional business a motion to recess till 9:30 A.M. October 8th, 2015 at the Board of Supervisors room, was made by Koenig, second by Moody, all in favor, the meeting was recessed at 3:30 P.M.

October 8, 2015

The meeting was called back into session October 8th, 2015 at 9:30am in the Board of Supervisors Office located on the first floor of the Allamakee county Courthouse 110 Allamakee Street Waukon, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, Bill Moody and Jeanie Carroll. Present from the Board of Supervisors were as follows: Dennis Koenig, Larry Shellhammer, and Dan Byrnes. Conservation Board staff members present were as follows: Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, Ross Geerdes and Jackie Jellings. Present from the public were as follows: Brain Stark, Karen Galema, John Verdon, Ric Zarwell, Bruce and Mary Palmborg, Curtis Snitker, Darrel Wortman, R. Craig White, Bill O'Conner, Doug Mullen, Ray Wagner, Gary Galema, Brent Darling, Rachelle Howe, Robert Hinkel, Tom Linbach, Don Thran, Gary Krapfl, John and Judy Schild, Sue and Joe Papp, Valerie Reinke, Ardie Kuhse, Mary Keatley, Bob Keatley, Cindy Schellhammer, City of Lansing Mayor Mike Brennan, Ralieg Buckmaster, Marty Brennan, Doug Sharp, Karen Pratte, Gary Kerndt, and Lyle Tekippe.

The Public Hearing portion of the meeting was re-opened from the October 6, 2015 recess with the Allamakee County Conservation Board and the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors. Discussion and consideration of bids for the Allamakee County Driftless Visitor Center continued. During the Board of Supervisors portion of the meeting the Board of Supervisors approved the Conservation Board to award contracts for the Driftless Education and Visitors Center. The Conservation Board made three motions to award the contracts for the Education and Visitor Center. A motion made by Carroll to award Cresco Builders the building contract for \$1,934,710.00, second by Clark, all in favor, motion carried. A motion by Clark was made to award Skyline Construction the Civil work contract for \$797,379.00, second by Koenig, all in favor, motion carried. A motion made by Moody to award Shawver Well the contract for the geothermal system for \$77,649.00, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. Brain Stark from Martin Gardner Architecture advised the Board to install LED lighting, and copper fixtures. Stark also discussed some different products options.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be November 3rd, 2015 at 1:00 P.M at the Board office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa.

Being no other business or items to discuss, motion to adjourn made Koenig, second by Clark, all in favor to adjourn at 10:00 A.M.