

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, April 5th, 2016 in the Board Office, located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. Conservation Board staff members present were as follows: Ross Geerdes, James Janett, Jackie Jellings, and Jarrod Olson. Present from the public were as follows: Bruce Palmborg, and Leigh Rekow.

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

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

Updates on current grants, fundraising, and construction for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center were provided to the Board. The Director will be attending the next CAT Board review meeting on April 13th, 2016 in Iowa City. Work completed this month would include: rafters being set, starting roof sheeting, in floor lower level plumbing and electrical work, with the pouring of the basement floor to soon follow, elevator shaft completed, exterior sheeting near completion, and culvert work has begun. The Board reviewed and approved the fifth contractor claim, totaling \$187,484.80 to be reimbursed by the National Scenic Byway Grant. A motion was made by Koenig to approve Cresco Builders claim for \$187,484.80, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center fundraising updates were provided to the Board. The Director conveyed work is still continuing on the McElroy grant. There were a few more bank meeting scheduled in the next couple of days, and the Director was very confident that the McElroy Challenge would be completed by the due date of April 20th and private fundraising is still ongoing.

The Board reviewed and approved the bids for stream bank work at Clear Creek Park. Two bids were received one from Riehm Construction of Waukon for \$24,400.00, and another from David Ryan Construction of Decorah for \$13,858.00. A motion was made by Carroll to approve the lowest bid from Dave Ryan Construction for \$13,858.00 and the IDNR contract for the Clear Creek Fish Habitat Grant, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board will conduct the May 3, 2016 Board meeting at 1:00 P.M. in the Kerndt Brothers Community Center in Lansing, Ia. After the business portion of the meeting the Board will tour the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center.

Field operations and educational updates were provided to the Board. Upcoming projects includes: burning prairie grass, running Luster Heights Inmates, opening restrooms, brush clearing at Clear Creek Park, grade work and pouring of the sidewalk approach at Nobles Island restrooms, and grade work at the Waterville Park shelter house. Summer help will be starting in May. Multiple educational programs are ongoing to the schools.

Postville Mayor Leigh Rekow expressed interest in the Postville Trail Line property. The city of Postville would like to obtain the property to incorporate into their long term recreational/trail plan. The Director will contact the Allamakee County Attorney regarding the possible conveyance of the property to the City of Postville.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be Tuesday May 3rd, 2016 at 1:00 P.M at the Kerndt Brothers Savings Community Center Lansing, Iowa. With an onsite tour of the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center to follow once the meeting is adjourned.

There being no additional business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second by Moody; all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.