

## Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 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. Board of Supervisors present were as follows: Dan Byrnes, and Larry Shellhammer. Conservation Board staff members present were as follows: Ross Geerdes, James Janett, Jackie Jellings, and Jarrod Olson. Present from the public were as follows: Paul Melsha, Joe Moses, and Denise Beyer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and the minutes from the previous meeting were 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. Work completed this month included: underground electrical wiring has begun, exterior stone work, siding, insulation, and sheetrock continue. The Board reviewed and approved the eleventh contractor claim, totaling \$208,862.45 to be reimbursed by the National Scenic Byway Grant. A motion was made to approve Cresco Builder's claim for \$208,862.45 by Clark, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried. Dennis Blocker asked the Board of Supervisor if they would reconsider funding for a portion of the Columbus Road, if they would switch the material to black top, to lessen the overall cost. The Board of Supervisors stated they would take this under advisement with Brian Ridenour, the County Engineer.

Updates were provided to the Board on the Split Rock Studios agreement, which will be signed by the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation Board, and the scope of work to be completed within the agreement.

The Conservation Board discussed with the Board of Supervisors interim finance for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. Board staffs have been working with finance consul on developing a cash flow summary for the upcoming months. The Conservation Board will present the opportunity for interim finance to those banks that donated towards the campaign at the \$50,000.00 level. A letter with cash follow summaries will be presented to the Banks.

The Board discussed Allamakee County Economic Development reserving the Education and Visitor Center for their annual meeting. With authorization from the contractor, the Board advised the Director to extend the invitation to host the annual meeting, and to inform them that the building is still undergoing construction.

The Board discussed and reviewed the Allamakee County Employee Handbook. A motion was made to approve the Allamakee County Employee Handbook by Clark, second by Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

Updates were provided on the following media contacts: "Finding Bigfoot" tv-show will be filming at Waterville Farm 55 Park, IPTV will be doing a segment on the Visitor Center, and the Register would like to do a follow up piece on the Visitor Center once it is complete.

Field operation updates and project priorities were provided to the Board. Summer help will be leaving in the middle of August, IIW Engineering Firm will be undertaking design work on the City of Lansing bridge by Clear Creek Park, the easement for a turnaround area for the Visitor Center is ongoing, the Upper Mississippi Gaming Commission Grant and REAP Grant applications will be submitted this month, ¾ ton dodge truck is in for repairs, Army Corps of Engineers will be using the Harpers Ferry Public Boat Landing to stock pile material for restoration work at Harpers Slough, Village, the Director was notified the Girl Scouts Camp Tahigwa property is coming up for sale, Dan Gable will be releasing a letter of support to the local newspaper, and work continues on Harpers Slough Handicap Fishing Access.

No other informational items or old business were discussed.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 1:00 P.M in the Board Office, located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa.

There being no additional business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second by Moody; all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.