

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 2nd, 2017 at the Board Office, located at 1944 Columbus Road Lansing, 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 was Paul Melsha.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M.

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. Final items yet to be completed at the Visitor Center include: permanent phone lines, exterior grading, landscape, paving of main line road and parking area, painting of exterior railings, and installation of educational displays. The Director has a meeting set with Keystone AEA representative to discuss possible firewall security systems.

Updates were provided to the Board on scheduled activities and reservations for the Visitor Center. Those included: Lansing Ragbrai Committee, CAT Board, McElroy Trust, IACCB District meeting, Friends of Pool 9 meeting, Driftless Area Scenic Byway Board meeting, Great River Rumble, and The Mississippi Parkway Commission Annual Nation meeting.

The Board discussed 2017 Ragbrai route and activities for Allamakee County. The Ragbrai committee for the town of Lansing will be using the Visitor Center for committee meetings up until the Ragbrai event. The Board discussed marketing and retail items to sell during this event, as well as charging a set fee and granting permission for any vendors that ask to set up at any of our park locations during this event.

The Board discussed FEMA updates and repair work at Clear Creek Park. The following work needs to be completed: bridge replacement, debris removal, and stream bank stabilization work. The Director received one bid from local contractor, one contractor declined a submittal, and still awaiting a third submissions to complete the bid process and letting of this project. Funds for this project will be used from FEMA Flood dollars and Stream Bank Stabilization Grant dollars awarded in 2016, any leftover funds from the awarded grant will be refunded back to Stream Bank Stabilization program, to be redistributed to other stream bank stabilization projects within the state.

Field operations and educational programming updates were provided to the Board. Projects for the spring include: finishing Harpers Slough handicap fishing access, set road way to connect to new shelter house at Halverson Park, place entrance stone sign for off road signage at the Visitor Center, transition food plot into native prairie grass habitat at Farm 55 Park, and review summer position applicants.

Other informational items discussed were: Village Creek Boat Landing management agreement process is still ongoing, Heytman's landing is releasing construction work for removal of debris, Roger Mohn set correct line of property steaks at Farm 55 Park, a member of the community asked about starting a handicap four wheeling program for better access to off road experiences to those that are handicap, and a member from the community asked the Director if the Board would partner in accomplishing taping oral history stories from local community members to then have on file at the Visitor Center for public access.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be Tuesday, April 4th, 2017 at 1:00 P.M, in the Board Office, at the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. There being no additional business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second by Carroll; all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M.