

## January 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday January 7, 2014 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Bill Moody, and Gary Soper. Present from the public Dave Martin and Mark Moines of Martin Gardner Architecture, Lyle TeKippe and Jon Biederman of Fehr Graham Engineering, Paul Melsha and Bruce Plomborg. Board staff in attendance included Ross Geerdes, Jim Janett, and Jarrod Olson.

The minutes from the December 3, 2013 Board meeting were read and approved.

Claims and Expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Director updated the board on the Request for Proposals for consulting services at the Columbus Property. The interviews were completed December 17th, after scoring was completed by the review committee Martin/Gardner, Fehr Graham, and Split Rock Studios had been selected. Dave Martin and Mark Moines of Martin/Gardner and Lyle TeKippe and Jon Biederman of Fehr Graham then gave a presentation on the upcoming processes for the Interpretive Center. Several issues were discussed; including the need to resolve the parking/variance issue, and the contract with Split Rock Studios. The Iowa DOT would like to see one contract covering all consultants, where Martin Gardner would like to see Split Rock under their own contract. Also the issue of a bus turnaround area needs to be resolved. The consulting firms will draft a contract outlining the roles and responsibilities of their firms. It will include the costs associated with moving forward in the construction of the Interpretive Center. If the IDOT approves the contract, the Board will review the contract at the February meeting.

Updates were given on grant reimbursements, the Director had filed and was waiting to receive the Fish Habitat Grant reimbursement and is still waiting on FEMA reimbursement from the June Flooding.

The 2014-2015 fiscal year budget was discussed by the Board. Budget items included, putting money into the reserve account this year and next fiscal year to fund the Scenic Byways Grant, trading the John Deere 1070 tractor and loader for a zero turn mower, putting a loader on the John Deere 4120, cementing the fishing walkways at the Columbus Property and the Middle Area South of Harpers Ferry, improved access to the County Home Pond, shelter construction at Volney Park, a color printer/copier, and educational program supplies. The Director would draft a proposed budget for the Board to review during its February meeting.

A motion was made by Moody and seconded by Clark for the Director to submit a Community Foundation Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for continued development of the Interpretive Center. All in favor, motion carried.

Informational items discussed by the Board included stream bank work completed on property at Kumpf's Canoe Access, Stonebrook informational panels, possible park expansion, and park dedication, staff attending upcoming IACCBE training, and new tires for the 2012 Dodge truck.

The next Board meeting will be February 4, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. at the Board Office

There being no additional information or business a motion to adjourn was made by Soper, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

## February 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday February, 2014 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, and Bill Moody. Present from the public was representative from the Board of Supervisors Dennis Koenig and Paul Melsha. Board staff in attendance included Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes.

The minutes from the January 7th, 2014 Board meeting were read and approved.

Claims and Expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Director presented a contract from the Iowa DNR to the Board. The contract would allow the Board to possibly receive monetary compensation, if there were ever any environmental violations in the County, which resulted in the responsible parties being fined. A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Moody to sign and enter into the contract. All in favor, motion carried.

The 2014-2015 fiscal year budget was reviewed line item by line item by the Board, with some additions and deletions. A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Carroll to submit the proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors for their review and approval. All in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed the payment of IACCB dues. It was the feeling of several Board members that the costs of the dues versus the benefits received from the IACCB were not equal, and that the dues were too high. The Director recommended paying at least the lowest membership amount of \$700. A motion was made by Moody and seconded by Clark to not pay any dues. All in favor, motion carried. Operations updates were given to the board.

The Director updated the Board on the Columbus Property. The Director was still waiting for the consulting contract which was being reviewed by the Iowa DOT for approval. The Director had spoken to Jim Kerndt about the possibility of some off-site parking and a bus turnaround area. Mr. Kerndt seemed open to the idea and the Director would keep the Board informed on the matter. The issue of the parking variance was discussed. It was the feeling of the Board to have the possibility of off-site parking resolved before seeking the parking variance.

Informational items discussed by the Board included, a full moon snowshoe hike on Road 527 South of the power plant, the idea of placing paid ads for programming on KNEI radio, upcoming budget review with the Board of Supervisors, and receipt of the fish habitat reimbursement.

The next Board meeting will be March 4th, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. at the Board Office

There being no additional information or business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second Moody, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

## March 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday March 4, 2014 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, and Marilyn Clark. Present from the public was representative from the Board of Supervisors Dennis Koenig, from the public Bruce Palmberg, Lyle Tekippe, Mark Moine, and County Engineer Brian Ridenour. Board staff in attendance included Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes.

The minutes from the February 4, 2014 Board meeting were read and approved.

Claims and Expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Olson and Janett have been working with a representative from FEMA and the reimbursement is nearing completion. A final meeting will take place later in February. The Director indicated the FEMA reimbursement should be more than the first FEMA representative projected. Gravel for the Middle Area and picnic tables still need to be included. The reimbursement from FEMA and the Fish Habitat grant will require a budget amendment.

The Director updated the Board on the possibility of acquiring some additional area for a bus turn around and overflow parking for the Columbus Property. The Director will meet with the landowner in the near future to discuss the possibility.

The Contracts for consulting services with the Martin Gardener, Fehr Graham and Split Rock Studios were reviewed. The possibility of separating the contract into individual contracts for each firm was discussed. The consulting firms were still waiting for a response from IDOT regarding if there will be one or two contracts.

Dave Moine and Lyle Tekippe presented the Board with the cost projections for the Education and Visitors Center. An outline of the original estimate from 12/06/2011, the estimate from the IDOT application, and estimates from 2/10/2014 were given. The estimation from 2/10/2014 reflects the changes to using city water and sewer and civil engineering fees. A total estimate of \$3.2 million was presented. They also noted that IDOT is allowing a local bid letting and actual costs will be reflected when the bids are in.

Operations and Education updates were given to the board. Planning continues on park development with information being collected by Olson about the history of the stone house at Stonebrooke Park. Olson and Geerdes have been teaching Hunters Safety at the Waterville Elementary.

County Engineer Brian Ridenour gave the board an update on the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) and plans going forward. Ridenour presented the MRT study and the priorities that have been set by the study. Options going forward include Lansing to Power Plant and from where the existing trail north of Harpers ends to as far north on the highway as funding will allow. It was noted the portion from Lansing to the Power Plant would be difficult to complete based on the terrain and right of way issues with the railroad. The Board recommended prioritizing where the current trail ends north of Harpers Ferry as far north as funding permits.

An update on the budget for fiscal year 2014/2015 was given to the Board. The Board discussed funds that could possibly be used for interim financing for reimbursements for the National Scenic Byway Grant.

Announcements for summer positions will be posted in the next month.

Several grants for the Columbus Property are being explored including grants from the Allamakee County Community Foundation, the McElroy Trust, REAP and Tap Grants.

The Board discussed the possible need for a special meeting before the April Board meeting. The Director will communicate to the Board if a special meeting is necessary, otherwise the next Board meeting will be April 1, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. at the Board Office

There being no additional information or business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

## April 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in special session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday March 25, 2014 in the Board of Supervisors Office located in the Allamakee County Courthouse 110 Allamakee Street Waukon, Iowa. This meeting is one week earlier than the regularly scheduled meeting and will replace the April 1, 2014 meeting. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. During the course of the meeting the following people were in attendance: Lyle TeKippe, County Engineer Brian Ridenour, Zoning Administrator Tom Blake, Bruce Palmborg, and Kristi Sheldon.

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

The Conservation Board welcomed newly appointed Conservation Board Member Dennis Koenig to the Board.

Claims and expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Board discussed the consulting services contract with Lyle TeKippe from Fehr Graham Engineering for the Columbus Property Education and Visitor Center. Fehr Graham is the principle on the contract with subcontractors being Martin Gardner for architectural and Split Rock Studios for interpretive services. The total of the consulting services contract is \$319,835.00. 80% of the total will be reimbursed by the National Scenic Byway Grant leaving \$63,967.00 for the Board to fund. The Board received a \$17,000.00 grant from the Allamakee County Community Foundation for matching funds and has an active grant submitted to the Foundation for additional matching funds that should be announced in the near future. REAP funds will be used for the balance of the 20% not covered by other grants. A motion was made by Carroll to approve the contract, second Clark, in favor Blocker, Carroll, Clark, Koenig, opposed Moody. Motion carried.

The location of a bus turnaround area for the Columbus Property was discussed by the Board. The Kerndt family would like to provide an area for a bus turnaround .8 of a mile down Columbus Road. There would be no area for additional parking at the site. The Kerndt family was also interested in allowing an easement across their property if the Conservation Board were to ever place a bridge across Village Creek allowing access to the center from Village Creek boat landing.

The Issue of obtaining a variance for parking on County road right of way was discussed by the Board. Zoning Administrator Tom Blake stated it would really be a twofold variance, one how much parking is actually needed, and two how much of that parking would be on the right of way. Blake also stated that the variance board would need the approval of the Supervisors and the County Engineer before they would pass such a variance. The Director will submit a preliminary plan to the supervisors and engineer Ridenour for their possible approval. The Director will also do a survey of other County Conservation Boards that have similar centers, to get an idea of the size of their buildings and the amount of parking that they have. The Board would also develop some onsite parking for staff personnel at the Columbus property.

The Director updated the Board on the FEMA reimbursements. Everything had been completed except a final close out meeting. The Board would be receiving \$30,569.23. The Board would get 85% of that amount back right away and another 10% once it had been approved by the State.

A number of informational items were presented to the Board. Items included the following: needed repair work to the Clear Creek Park pond dike, the need to have bid specifications written for curb and sidewalk paving at the recently completed handicapped fishing sidewalk on Village Creek at the Columbus Property, and the placement of a portable restroom at the Columbus Property. A 2014 spring work list was provided to the Board. The Director informed the Board that the County Conservation Directors Association had amended their bylaws to state, that any Conservation Board that was not a member of the IACCB could not be a member of the Director's Association. The Director informed the Board that since the supervisors contributed \$100,000 bridge money to help in funding the Scenic Byways Grant, it was his thoughts to try to conserve as much money in this year's fiscal budget as possible to turn back in to go towards that \$100,000.

Kristi Sheldon Spoke to the Board about her concerns with frac sand mining in the County. She was concerned that all of the information the Allamakee County Supervisors had received was studies done in Wisconsin and Minnesota. She thought there needed to be some studies done right here in Allamakee County so the Supervisors were as well informed as possible. She thought possibly contacting the Geology Department from the University of Iowa, the NRCS, or the Army Corps of Engineers to see if there was anything they could do.

The next meeting will be Tuesday May 6th at 1:00 P.M. at the Board Office.

There being no additional information or business a motion to adjourn was made by Clark, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

## May 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday May 6, 2014 in the Board Office located at 427 North First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Board Members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. During the course of the meeting the following people were in attendance: Paul Melsha, Bruce Palmborg, and Don Gibson. Board Staff Members in attendance were James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

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

The Board reviewed claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances. With 83.29% of the fiscal year completed the Board had used 98.37% of the budget. The Director informed the Board funds from the Fish Habitat Grant and Motor Vehicle Tax reimbursements that were recently amended are not reflected in the percentages. The Director projected an approximate balance of \$25,000.00 to finish the current fiscal year. The following fund balances were provided to the Board. \$204,126.66 REAP Account, \$36,610.43 Conservation Special Project Account, and \$11,275.75 Conservation Reserve Account. The Director noted the increase in the Special Projects Account was from the Grant recently received from the Allamakee County Community Foundation for the Driftless Area Visitor and Education Center. FEMA funds recently received were discussed by the Board. The funds were received after the Allamakee County Auditor conducted a budget amendment and were not included in the amendment. A motion was made by Carroll to have the FEMA revenue placed in the Conservation Reserve Account, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried. The Director will make contact with the Auditor's Office about having the funds placed into the Conservation Reserve Account.

Information was presented to the Board about possible grant funding from the McElroy Trust for interpretive displays for the Driftless Area Visitor and Education Center.

Part-time summer positions were discussed by the Board. Past summer employees Shannon Plaht and Ethan Halverson are planning to return. The Board viewed six applications submitted from the job posting. Staff members Janett and Olson will conduct interviews for the position and will select a person for the remaining summer position.

Updates were provided to the Board on the Columbus Property. A Board of Adjustment variance hearing for parking on County Road Right of Way is set for 4:30 P.M. Wednesday May 14, 2014. The item had been recently placed on the Board of Supervisors agenda and approved by both the Supervisors and the County Engineer. The Director will post an agenda for Conservation Board Members that may attend the hearing. The consulting contracts for the Scenic Byway Grant were having financial audits completed by the State of Iowa and should be complete in the near future. A map of the vehicle turnaround area .8ths of mile down Columbus Drive were reviewed by the Board. The Director will be in contact with the County Attorney to create an easement for the turnaround area.

Bids for paving the sidewalk on the fishing access at the Columbus Property were opened by the Board. The Bids were as follows: Heim Concrete \$13,280.00, Meyer Concrete \$4,635.75, Kelly Concrete \$9,650.00 and Walleser Concrete \$7,949.00. A motion was made by Koenig to get clarification on one bid and to select the lowest bidder for the project, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director presented a number of informational items to the Board. Items discussed included location

of sidewalks at Stone Brooke Park, design of the historical information kiosk at Stone Brooke, the replacement of the entrance sign on State Highway 26 at the New Albin Park, the need for additional fill at Ray's Landing. Other items included the work recently completed by Nick Jones on the Halverson addition next to Kolsrud Park, the planting of food plots at Waterville Farm 55, and the placement of a culvert on White Pine Drive for access on the east side of Farm 55.

Other informational items provided to the Board included communication updates to the Board from IACCB Board Members regarding membership, additional mowing at the County Home, mower and loader pricings. Information was provided to the Board about the replacement of electronic sensor flush valves at various restrooms with manual paddle flush valves. Vehicle fuel purchase locations were discussed with the Board. Other informational items discussed by the Board included the preservation of historic Monsrud and Red School Bridges, and Allamakee County Conservation Foundation activities relating to fund raising for the Education and Visitor Center

The Director reminded Board Members to submit Board Member Mileage at the June Board meeting.

The next Conservation Board meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday June 3, 2014.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Clark to adjourn the meeting, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.



## June 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday June 3, 2014 at the Columbus Property located at 1944 Columbus Drive Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig, and Bill Moody. Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Sherry Strub and Board staff members Jim Janett and Jarrod Olson.

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

The Board reviewed claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances. The Director informed the Board that budget amendments for FEMA, fuel tax, and Fish Habitat Grants reimbursements had been completed. The projected ending balance of the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget was \$36,500.00. The Director also informed the Conservation Board that funds from the Board of Supervisors for payments for the Scenic Byway Grant had been received and were being placed into the Conservation Reserve Account. The Board discussed possible expenditures for the end of the fiscal year. These items included the following: paving of the Columbus fishing access sidewalk, Stone Brooke Park concrete sidewalk and information Kiosk, gravel at various Parks, tractor and loader payment, power point projector, chain saw replacement, and any other claims. The Board instructed Director to leave a \$2,000.00 – 3,000.00 balance in the 2013-2014 ending Fiscal Year Budget.

Board members submitted mileage from January – June 2014.

The Board reviewed price quotes for a front deck mower tractor and a loader for the John Deere 4120 utility tractor. The Board will trade a John Deere 1070 utility tractor. Prices were submitted for Kubota and John Deere equipment. The price of the combined equipment purchase with a trade for the John Deere 1070 utility tractor were as follows; Kubota \$15,826.92, John Deere \$16,406.16. A motion was made by Carroll to purchase the John Deere mower and loader, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director provided the Board with development updates on the Columbus Property and the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. Financial audits from IDOT for Martin Gardner Architecture and Fehr Graham have been completed; the audit for Split Rock Studios is not completed.

The Board reviewed a draft of the vehicle turn around easement located .8 miles down Columbus Road. The easement has to be approved by the Board and the landowner. The Board viewed the turn around area.

The next Board meeting will be held at the Columbus Property at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday July 1, 2014.

A motion was made by Clark to adjourn the meeting, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

## July 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday July 1, 2014 at the Columbus Property located at 1944 Columbus Drive Lansing, Iowa. Board members who were present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Bill Moody, and Dennis Koenig. Present from the public were Clem Schulte, Dave Dunckle, Jim Kerndt, Paul Meshla, Gary Grafle and Jane Reagan. Board staff who were present were Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes. The Board reviewed and approved claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances.

Ending fiscal year budget projections update was provided by the Director. Month end/year end summaries had not been completed. The Director projected an ending balance of \$3,206.00.

An update on the flood damage received during June storms was given. Several trees were lost at the Makee Manor along with washouts on the road at County Home Park. Several loads of gravel will be needed to repair the damage to the roadway. The approach to the historic bridge at Clear Creek has been washed out. Rock fill will be needed to repair the approach. The walking bridge was washed out and will need to be reset. Prairie plantings at Stone Brooke Park had been washed away. Flood waters were over the entire shelter floor and several feet high in the pit toilet. Concrete work that had been done was undercut and will need to have fill repacked underneath of it. Several trees and debris were also washed in from the river. The canoe access at Bridge 16 has been damaged by high water. The Director has been coordinating with the County Engineer to remove the debris, shape the river bank, and place rip rap. Concrete will be poured over the rip rap.

Part-time employee Ethan Halverson resigned effective June 26, 2014. He stated low wages as the release for leaving.

The Director and Naturalist updated the board on the Environmental Education programs being offered to the public. The Director noted that good feedback has been received from many people in the public. Geerdes assisted with several school field trips throughout May and the beginning of June. Partnering organizations for the field trips included the NRCS, Iowa DNR, and the Iowa State University Extension. Summer Day camps are being offered throughout the summer. The first day camps in June averaged approximately 20 attendants. Summer day camps as well as programs at libraries throughout the County will be offered in the month of July. High water in the Mississippi River is affecting some programs for July; the Mississippi River Adventure Day will probably be cancelled.

In April the Conservation Board was notified by the Allamakee County Sherriff's Department of possible Meth Lab activity at Waterville Pines. It was inspected by Olson and determined to be a fort structure built by kids. Upon further investigation in June a document with names of the individuals was discovered and their parents were contacted. They were ordered to remove the debris.

REAP grants will be due August 15. The director will be submitting an application for the Education and Visitors Center.

Board Members were asked to turn in their mileage for reimbursement.

The new John Deere riding lawn mower has been received. The new front loader for the tractor has not been received.

A letter from the IAACCB president was given to board members. It was expressed by board members they would like to see a representative of the IAACCB to explain the benefits of the organization. More information will be provided during the August meeting.

Members of the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation were welcomed to the meeting. Information was given by the Director regarding the Scenic Byways Grant. The Audits have been received from the DOT on Split Rock Studios and they can proceed with the consulting process. Members of the foundation and the Conservation Board discussed donor recognition at the Education Center. It was thought by most that people donating money to the project would not expect a gift in return, but would rather have their name on a recognition wall. Several ideas for recognizing monetary levels of donors on the wall were discussed.

Professional fundraising services were discussed by members of the Board and the Foundation. It was agreed upon that further information regarding the services was needed and would be sought.

Split Rock Studios will conduct a "Kickoff" meeting for display planning for the Education and Visitors Center. Information for floor plans and fundraising materials will also be discussed at the meeting.

The next meeting will be held August 5, 2014 at the Allamakee County Conservation office.

A motion to adjourn was made by Clark and seconded by Carroll. Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

## August 2014 Minutes from the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday August 5, 2014 at the Allamakee County Conservation Board Office at 427 N. First Street Harpers Ferry, Iowa. The meeting was a joint meeting between the Allamakee County Conservation Board and the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation. Conservation Board Members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, and Dennis Koenig. Present from the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation was Clem Schulte, Dave Duncklee, and Jane Reagan. Present from the public was Gary Grafle, Steve Casterton, Ralph Savoy, Laura Eddy, and Ellen Hongerholt. Allamakee County Conservation Board staff members Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes were present.

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 balances were review and approved by the Board.

Field operation updates were provided to the Board. Items included the fishing float being set at the Harpers Ferry Landing, completed access improvements at Bridge 16, poured concrete sidewalks completed at Columbus, additional fill placed at Ray's Landing, flood damage repair updates, completed pond dike repair at Clear Creek, and preparing Harpers Sough Fishing Access sidewalks for pouring concrete sidewalks. The Director discussed having Meyer Concrete help pour the sidewalks at Harpers Slough Fishing Access, Meyer's was low bid on the Columbus sidewalk project and will work on the Harpers Slough project for the same rate. A motion was made by Clark to have Meyer Concrete help complete the concrete work for the handicapped fishing access sidewalk at Harpers Slough Fishing Access Area, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director discussed the FEMA process for filing for damage on County Parks during the June 2014 disaster period. Most of the damage at Allamakee County Parks was loss of gravel on parking areas, debris removal, and erosion on new seeding. The Director informed the Board there was a possibility of receiving some FEMA Preventive Measures cost share for concreting the sidewalks at Harpers Slough, Bridge Sixteen, and Columbus.

The Board was informed of vehicle, boat, and equipment storage at various boat landings. The problem occurring are seasonal residences and their guests using the boat landings for storage. The activity causes a shortage of parking spaces and limits boater access to the river. Attempts to correct the problem will begin with signage.

Staff had received comments about boat wake issues at the Village Creek Boat Landing; the Director had been in contact with the IDNR Park Ranger about setting No Wake buoys in Village Creek. The possibility of setting No Wake Signs on the County Bridge was discussed. The Director will make contact with the County Engineer about the placing signs on the County Bridge.

The Director provided the Board with updates on the Columbus Property and the Visitor Center. Items included the completion of the concrete handicapped fishing access sidewalks, no wake boating issue, and waiting for the IDOT to approve the consulting contracts. The Director noted there is still additional concrete to pour on the river side of the sidewalk to prevent high water from eroding under the sidewalks.

Other informational items presented to the Board included the use of Waterville Farm 55 for a Boy Scout camp out, L.P. bids being let and awarded to Fauser Oil for \$1.39 -08.

The Board discussed different grant funding opportunities for the Columbus Property Education and Visitor Center. Some of the possible grant funding sources included a REAP County Grant, Iowa Economic Development Community Development Grant, and the R.J. Mc Elroy Foundation Trust. The Board discussed the IACCB dues payment. The Director will coordinate a meeting with a representative to discuss the due structure.

Conducting a Fall Field Day for the Conservation Board was discussed. The Board will look at conducting a field day on Tuesday October 7, 2014.

The joint meeting between the Conservation Board and the Conservation Foundation began at 2:20 P.M. Two fund raising consultants were interviewed for assisting with fund raising efforts for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. The two consulting firms interviewed were Crescendo Consulting and Consult Savoy. The first interview was conducted with Consult Savoy and the second interview was with Crescendo. After the interviews were completed the interviews were discussed. It was clarified that the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation will retain which ever consultant was selected. The Conservation Foundation decided to check on references of both consultants and make a selection at the next Foundation meeting. The Foundation set the next meeting date for 3:30 P.M. Tuesday August 26, 2014.

There being no additional business, a motion was made by Carroll to adjourn, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

## September 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday September 2, 2014 in the Allamakee County Conservation 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. Present from the public was Bruce Palmborg. Also present were Board staff members Ross Geerdes, James Janett, and Jarrod Olson.

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 balance summaries were reviewed and approved by the Board. Information was provided to the Board regarding the annual RC&D meeting being held on Thursday September 11th, Board interested in attending will let the Director know.

Columbus Property updates were provided on the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. Items included the Board receiving Iowa DOT approval for consulting services expenditures, starting of engineering work by Fehr Graham, communications between Fehr Graham and the Allamakee County Zoning Administrator regarding if setbacks for the building will be measured from the building foundation or soffit overhangs. Fehr Graham has also completed a topographic map of the property and had placed the building on the map. Conservation Board Staff are working on completing a concrete pour on the river side of the sidewalk to prevent high water from undermining the sidewalk. The Director updated the Board on a scheduled kick off meeting with Split Rock Studios for gathering information on interpretive displays to be held at 1:00 P.M. Thursday September 10, 2014 at the Kerndt Brothers Community Center in Lansing, Iowa

The Director updated the Board on the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation efforts to secure a fund raising consultant. The August 2014 Conservation Board meeting had been a joint meeting with the Foundation and two consulting firms were interviewed. The Foundation met the following week and selected Ralph Savoy Consulting. After Savoy Consulting had been offered the fund raising consulting position, Savoy declined accepting the position due to personal reasons. The Allamakee County Conservation Foundation informed Crescendo Consulting about the vacancy and is also scheduling an additional interview of different fund raising consultant recommended by Savoy Consulting. No decision has been made regarding retaining a fund raising consultant for the project.

FEMA updates were provided to the Board on the filing process for the June 2014 Disaster Declaration. The Director indicated that the majority of materials used to repair damages, equipment usage and labor should be eligible for reimbursement.

Field operations updates were provided by Board Staff. One of the part-time seasonal staff has left for the summer. Additional river clean up from recent flooding has been completed, mowing of all areas has been kept current, and more fill at Ray's Landing is going to be provided by Secondary Roads. Other items presented included preparing Harpers Slough Fishing Access Area for pouring the concrete sidewalk and the scheduled Hunter Safety Class on Thursday September 11th and the 13th.

Staff member Ross Geerdes provided information to the Board on education programs he completed during the last month and upcoming education programs that he has scheduled.

Updates were provided to the Board on the Nobles Island Rest Room replacement. The IDNR has approved the replacement and has retained an engineering firm to complete the necessary planning for the restroom removal and replacement. The Director informed the Board that a September 17th on site meeting has been scheduled to discuss the removal and replacement process.

The Conservation Board scheduled the October 7, 2014 monthly Board meeting as a field day to view projects and look at development plans for 2015. Contact will be made with the Board of Supervisors to invite them to attend. A tentative start time will be 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday October 7, 2014. The Director will finalize the field planning time, location, and will forward the meeting announcement in the mailing.

The Board discussed several old business items. Those items included the Postville Trail Line property, moving of the Monsrud Bridge from Yellow River State Forest to the Kolsrud Park, and maintenance on the Red School Bridge that is on the Yellow River.

Other items discussed by the Board included the payment of IACCB due and the election of Officers for the Conservation Board. The Director is to make contact with the IACCB association and coordinate a meeting at a Board Meeting.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Moody to adjourn the meeting, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

## October 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 10:30 A.M. Tuesday October 7, 2014 in the Allamakee County Courthouse located at 110 Allamakee Street Waukon, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, Bill Moody, and Dennis Koenig. Allamakee County Supervisors present were Larry Schellhammer and Sherry Strub; also present Allamakee County Auditor Denise Beyer. Conservation Board staff present were Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes. Present from the public were Paul Melsha, and Bob Beach.

The Board reviewed and approved claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances.

FEMA reimbursement updates were provided by the Director. The reimbursement claims should be finalized and waiting for final authorization.

IACCB dues were discussed by the Director; he will coordinate a meeting for the next Board meeting. Updates on the Columbus Property were provided. The handicapped accessible fishing access has been completed, including cement to stabilize and protect the sidewalk in case of future flooding.

Fehr Graham has begun work on the site plan for the Education and Visitors Center. They have asked for clarification if the right-of-way setbacks will be from the building edge or the end of the soffits. The director requested the approval of hiring a part time, temporary office assistant to help with website development, social media postings, media releases, and administrative support. A motion was made by Koenig to approve the posting of the position, second Carroll, the motion carried on a 3/1 vote. The Board departed the Courthouse and began the field day tour. The Conservation Board toured the following areas: Stonebrooke Park, Volney Park, and Kolsrud's Park.

The completion of construction on the shelter house and kiosk were viewed at Stonebrook Park. Also, the seeding of the native prairie and the tree plantings that were completed during the spring were viewed.

At Volney the Board viewed woody vegetation release from the canoe access rock outcroppings, and the possible location of a new shelter house. The current shelter house uprights are beginning to deteriorate and repair options were discussed. The Director would like to salvage the roof structure and replace the log uprights. Staff will further research the best method and the type of materials to use.

The board then viewed the donated Halverson property that is continuous to the donated Kolsrud Property. A location was discussed for a new shelter house and for a driveway leading to the shelter house. The existing shelter house was also viewed as the wooden uprights are deteriorating.

The Director is coordinating the next Board meeting with the engineer, architect, and interpretive display consultants. The Board instructed the Director to adjust the Board meeting date if necessary.

A motion to adjourn was made by Carroll, seconded by Moody, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



## November 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met with the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation in special session at 4:00 P.M. Thursday November 13, 2014 in the Kerndt Brothers Community Room in Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Dennis Blocker, Jeannie Carroll, and Marilyn Clark. Board staff in attendance included Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes. Present from the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation were Clem Schulte and Jane Reagan. Present from the public were Laura Olson, Bruce Plomborg, Justin Tolan, and Wendy Scardino.

The minutes from the October 28, 2014 Board meeting were read and approved.

Claims and Expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Board.

A discussion was held regarding the presentation by Tom Hazelton. The Iowa State Associations of Counties is being held currently and any decisions on paying of the IACCB dues would be postponed until after the ISAC meeting. Discussion is being held at ISAC as to allowing Allamakee County into the Director's Association.

The Director and Lyle TeKippe met with People's Services in Lansing. TeKippe feels the city is asking for equipment in the water and sewer system to the Education and Visitor's Center is unnecessary. City of Lansing agreed a 6" water line was good and a 2" sewer line would be sufficient.

The board reviewed the proposal of the Split Rock Studios for the educational displays at the Education and Visitors Center. Everyone was in agreement that information regarding the initial court proceedings in Allamakee County at the Columbus Property needed to be included in the display material.

Wendy Scardino and Justin Tolan presented the findings of the feasibility study by Amperage. Findings were based off of interviews that were conducted with individuals from around Allamakee County.

Questions were asked regarding the fundraising for the Education and Visitors Center. It was recommended that the board seek letters of recommendation from the school districts in Allamakee County and that the Foundation increase its membership.

Members of the Board asked questions regarding the study presentation including the timeframe best to start the project, possibility and amounts of grant opportunities, and if a line item bill was available.

A meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation was set for Monday, November 17, 2014 at 4p.m. in the Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be December 2, 2014 at 1 p.m. at the headquarters in Harpers Ferry.

A motion to adjourn was made by Clark and seconded by Carrol at 5:45 p.m.

## December 2014 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session Tuesday December 2nd, 2014 at 1P.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 from the public was Paul Melsha. Also present was Conservation Board staff members Jim Janett, Jarrod Olson, and Ross Geerdes.

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

Claims and revenues were reviewed by the Board.

The Director updated the Board on the Scenic Byways Grant reimbursement process. Claims from Fehr Grahm would be paid out of the special projects account and once the reimbursement was complete from the Iowa DOT the money would be put back into the same account.

The Director informed the Board of an upcoming meeting January 15th at the Kerndt Brothers Community Center in Lansing. The meeting will be an evening meeting open to the public where Split Rock Studios will present their Schematic Design II Package for the Education and Visitor Center. The Director encouraged all Board members to attend.

The possibility of upcoming grants for the Education and Visitor Center were discussed. The Director informed the Board that he would more than likely be submitting as many grants as possible for the Center. Some possible grants, that would be coming up included the CAT grant, Community Foundation Grant, McElroy Foundation, Reap, as well as several others. The Board encouraged the Director to obtain as many grants as he could.

The Director updated the Board on the on going water meter situation with the City of Lansing and People's Services. George Tekippe of Fehr Grahm had gone to the Lansing city council meeting to discuss a proposal to eliminate the six inch meter and instead install a series of smaller valves that would be able to accomplish the same thing. The council seemed receptive to the idea, but seemed more concerned about who would pay for a leak if there ever was one. Tekippe informed the council that he would write up a contract to be signed by both the City Council and the Conservation Board stating that if there was a leak the Conservation Board would be responsible for payment.

The Director gave the Board an update on ongoing Foundation business. It had been decided to increase the number of members on the Foundation Board. Several people were being contacted to see if they would be interested in serving on the Board. The Foundation Board was also in the process of selecting and creating its steering committee for the fundraising project.

The Board discussed the hiring of a part-time office employee to handle some office tasks as well as some online media marketing for the Conservation Board and the Foundation. Other responsibilities would include some clerical work for the foundation. It was the thought of the Director and the Board that the candidate pool could be widened by making the position a permanent part-time position versus a temporary part-time position. It was the consensus of

the Board that the pay of the position would be based on experience.

In old business the Board discussed the Postville Trail Line. It was agreed that the board either needed to make some improvements to the property or sell it. After some discussion a motion was made by Moody to sell the property, seconded by Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The Director will contact the supervisors and County attorney to begin the process of selling the property by sealed bid.

The election of officers was held. A motion was made by Clark to keep Blocker as Chair Person seconded by Carroll all in favor motion carried. Moody nominated Clark as Vice Chair which was seconded by Koenig. Blocker will remain Chair Person with Clark as Vice Chair.

Other informational items discussed by the board included, a meeting held with the new manager of the Alliant Power plant. The manager expressed interest in serving on the Foundation and would work with the building architect for any energy saving rebates. The Director informed the Board that FEMA had been finalized and he was waiting for reimbursement. Board Member Marilyn Clark was informed that her term on the Conservation Board would expire January of 2015. Clark said she would take a reappointment. The Board members submitted mileage.

The next meeting of the Allamakee County Conservation Board will be January 6th, 2014 at 1:00 P.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 3:30 P.M.