

Draft
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.