

June 14, 2016, Marine Center, Guttenberg

A meeting was held to discuss a multi-use trail from Marina Road to Buck Creek Rd along Clayton County X56 River Road. (As an attendee, these meeting notes are to the best of my understanding and may not be entirely accurate.)

Attendees:

Lora Friest, Exec. Dir., Northeast Iowa RC&D (Resource Conservation & Development)
email: lora.friest@northeastiowarcd.org
Ray Koopman, County Engineer, Clayton County
email: rkoopman@claytoncountya.gov
Jenna Pollock, Executive Director, Clayton County Conservation
email: jpollock@claytoncountya.gov
Russell Loven, Mayor of Guttenberg
Landowners along CC Rd X56, residents of Esmann Island and residents of Able Island

Clayton County is proposing a road construction project of an asphalt overlay of X56 from Pikes Peak Road to Guttenberg and across the Island Road. Inclusive in this project would be a 5 foot paved shoulder from Buck Creek Road to Island to be used as a path for pedestrians and bicyclists. A five foot paved shoulder will also be constructed on the south side of the dike road. The existing bridge over Buck Creek will have to be used as connection from the shoulder on one side of the bridge to the shoulder on the other side of the bridge. No bridges will be built or widened. The shoulder on the dike road can also be use for parking cars for ice fishing and as a staging area for bicycles at the RR crossing.

A paved 10 foot wide trail would be constructed on the residential side of X56 as a multi-use recreational trail with parking for ice-fishing on Bussy Lake in the winter months. This trail will extend from the Island Road to Marina Road. The county has enough right-of-way to accomplish this through the ditch areas, but to make it safer and more pleasing aesthetically, they would welcome permission from the land owners to encroach on the private property. It seemed a consensus from the landowners in attendance that this could happen. Other issues to be dealt with in this section would be relocation of utilities and installation of storm drainage which would increase the cost substantially. A grant from the state would be required. This portion of the trail will need to meet ADA requirements.

Northeast Iowa RC&D would require a contract between the State and the city of Guttenberg and Clayton County to maintain and repair the trail. If it appears there is enough support and use for the trail, and there is a positive aspect for the trail like connecting pathways and trails, it makes the grant easier to obtain. The multi-use trail would accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, golf carts, cross country skiing and other possible uses.

Lora Friest would assist in acquiring a grant. A letter of support was asked from the Board of Directors of Esmann Island, from Able Island, and from the residents along the trail. These letters must be submitted by July 1, 2016. Letters should be addressed to:

Yvonne Diller
Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Systems Planning
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Fax or email the letter to Lora Friest at the email noted above, or the fax number 563-864-7113.

These notes submitted to Esmann Island Board of Directors on June 18, 2016 by:
Jeanne and Don Niosi #364 Esmann Island