

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

COUNTY NAME: POWESHIEK COUNTY	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	COUNTY NUMBER: 79
The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows: Meeting Date: 3/24/2025 Meeting Time: 06:00 PM Meeting Location: Poweshiek County Courthouse, Boardroom, 302 E Main St, Montezuma, IA At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.		
County Website (if available): www.poweshiekcounity.org		County Telephone Number (641) 623-5443
Iowa Department of Management		
Taxable Valuations-General Services	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2024/2025	Budget Year Effective Tax FY 2025/2026
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates Except Debt Service	1,365,295,677	1,493,371,934
Taxable Valuations-Debt Service	4,437,211	4,437,211
Requested Tax Dollars-Debt Service	1,653,374,306	1,728,530,198
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates	657,821	657,821
Tax Rate-Countywide	5,095,032	5,095,032
Tax Rate-Countywide	3,64789	3,35184
Taxable Valuations-Rural Services	990,177,376	1,082,795,737
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies	3,812,183	3,812,183
Tax Rate-Rural Additional	3,85000	3,52069
Rural Total	7,49789	6,87253
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed		
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$100,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2025/2026
Urban Taxpayer	169	184
Rural Taxpayer	347	379
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed		
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$300,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2025/2026
Urban Taxpayer	746	825
Rural Taxpayer	1,533	1,695
Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.		
Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current: Adding additional deputy to public safety; increase in insurance; increase in wages; increase in secondary road capital projects; increase in continuation of services to the public.		

LEGAL NOTICES

BGM COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 19, 2025 BOARD MINUTES

The Regular Board Meeting of the BGM Community School District met in regular session on **February 19th, at 7:00 pm** in the media center of BGM High School. Board President Kelly Kriegel called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted in board members, Pat Coleman, Craig Kalinay, Kelly Kriegel, Stacia Brown, and Kayleen Tomelich being present. Craig Kuntz, and Eric Hodina were absent. Also present was Superintendent Hohensee, Brady Miller, Shane Ebersman, and Mary Sherwood. Brown read the Mission Statement "In partnership with parent(s) and community, we will provide each student with the essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be a lifelong learner, a contributing citizen, and a productive worker in a changing and diverse world." Kriegel read the President's Statement. Tomelich moved to approve the consent agenda items which included additions/deletions, approval of the previous meeting minutes, current bills and additional bills, financial reports, facility use requests, Employment offers to Jerod Burns-JH Baseball Coach, Allie Morris-JH Asst. Softball Coach. The motion was seconded by Brown, unanimously adopted.

Tomelich moved to approve the 2025-2026 equipment request. The motion was seconded by Coleman, unanimously adopted. The Board discussed the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Kalinay moved to approve the bid for flooring at the elementary. The motion was seconded by Coleman, unanimously adopted.

Superintendent Hohensee reported: 1. February Schedule. 2. Budget Timelines. Textbook/Workbook requisitions will be on the agenda for approval in March. Supplies will be on the agenda for approval in April. Summer work orders will be on the agenda for approval in May. 3. Legislative In-service Update. 4. 2025-2026 Budget- Brady and I will begin working on the budget for next year. We have a budget meeting on January 21 with ISFIS. We will review the information at the March board meeting. The budget process has changed. We must hold two hearings, and the budget is now due on April 30. We will have a "Property Tax Hearing" on March 24 at 6:00. We will have the 2nd budget hearing before the April meeting, then approve the budget at the April meeting.

Principal Mary Sherwood Reported: • Our mid-year assessment data is looking great! We have increased students at benchmark since the beginning of the year. Literacy went from 77% of students in K-6 at benchmark to 84% of students at benchmark. Math we increased as well from 75% at benchmark in the fall to 80% in the winter. We are in the midst of our deep data dives and recovery. We are adding additional plans to interventions and supports for our students. I am very proud of our teachers, staff and students with their hard work and dedication to meeting individual needs for our students.

• We are kicking off our Kids Heart Challenge on Friday, January 24th with an assembly from the American Heart Association. We encourage all students and staff to wear red on this day with special recognition for our very own 5th grader, Ava Kane, who recently had heart surgery and is fighting hard in the recovery. Kyle Grifits has several fun incentives planned this year in hopes of meeting our goal of raising \$13,000. Our culminating event and deadline will be Friday, February 21st where all classes will participate in heart healthy activities during their specials time.

• Ms. Chaffield is hosting her annual Family Folk Dance Night on Friday, February 7th from 6:30-7:30. The whole family can come join in learning some fun, new dances during this event.

• Classes will be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14th.

Principal Shane Ebersman Reported: On Monday, February 3, we held an Elective Course Fair for students in grades 8-11 and a field trip to the Iowa State Capitol building for 7th grade students. During the Elective Course Fair, students rotated every 12 minutes from department to department to listen to different teachers about 2025-2026 elective course offerings. Big thanks to Angie Radcliffe who organized the afternoon schedule. While at the Iowa State Capitol, the 7th grade students received a formal 90-minute tour of the facility. Appreciate all the work by Joe Tafta who planned the field trip. Congratulations to the following students who will be inducted into the National Honor Society: Raquel Carper, Ben Cadden, Hunter Hodina, Kinze Jacaeys, Harrison Hershey, Jackson Biers, Aliana Coleman, Shyla Van Nevel, Averee Krebill, Damien Haines, Sadie Klein, and Shaelynn Keller. The induction ceremony on Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Mark Kriegel is the National Honor Society advisor.

South Iowa Cedar League (SICL) conference wrestling meet, the boys team finished 4th place and the girls team placed 2nd place. Girls basketball districts begin on Thursday, February 13 vs. Meskwaki at Meskwaki Settlement School (7:00 p.m.). District boys wrestling will be Saturday, February 15 at Pleasantville High School (10:00 a.m.). Boys basketball districts will either be on Friday, February 14 or Monday, February 17. Fine Arts Extravaganza will be Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

A Career Planning Committee was formed a few months ago to work on iJag initiatives, Work-Based Learning projects, and discuss college and career readiness opportunities for students. The committee meets every Monday at 1:00 p.m. in the guidance office. Committee members: Angie Radcliffe, Jeremy Mize, Kelsey Klein, and Shane Ebersman. At the February Secondary Building Leadership Team (BLT) meeting, we reviewed the BGM Wireless Communication Device policy proposal

along with the governor's cell phone Senate Study Bill 1065 in the Iowa legislature. A Google survey will be sent to three groups between February 18-February 24 to garner feedback from parents/guardians, students, and secondary staff. At the March 2025 BGM school board meeting, a proposal will be presented to the school board for consideration.

The 2025-2026 secondary master class schedule has been finalized. Angie Radcliffe will begin registering next year's high school students in the following order: Juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and 8th graders. New classes offered next year include Consumer Math (financial literacy requirement in addition to Financial Math), Pre-Algebra, Applied Math, Health & Fitness, Computer Science for 9th/10th graders, Introduction to Business, Business Communications, 7th grade Study Skills, 8th grade Computer Science. We will continue to offer Spanish using Logra Learning.

The Board Reported: Congratulations to Hunter Hodina on making it to State Wrestling. Thank you to our amazing cooks for all they do.

The next regular meeting of the Board of directors will take place Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 7:00PM. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm. Tomelich seconded. Brady Miller, Board Secretary Kelly Kriegel, Board President

February 24, 2025

The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present, Jason Roudabush, Jackie Bolen, and Jeff Tindle.

Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve February 20, 2025 board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve liquor license for Brooklyn-Victor Country Club for March 2025 to November 2025. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Brian Paul, EMA discussed with the board for approval of the outdoor warning siren located at Diamond Lake Park. The board stated this project did fall under the emergency communications bond project and is an allowable expense.

The board further discussed the cost for stand-up and multi-pack chargers for the papers as part of the emergency communication bond project and felt this would be an allowable expense. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve the payment of the outdoor warning siren at Diamond Lake Park and for the chargers for the papers all part of the emergency communication bond project. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

The board reviewed for approval Resolution #2025-24 for notice of disposal of real estate to set a public hearing. This is regarding a parcel of land that was to be conveyed from the State of Iowa to the Poweshiek County back in 1982 to build a maintenance shop and when the maintenance shop project fell through the agreement was for Poweshiek County to convey that parcel back to Steffens. The county is required to hold a public hearing before conveying property. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve Resolution #2025-24 Notice of Disposal of Real Estate and set a public hearing for March 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025-24 NOTICE OF DISPOSAL OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, Poweshiek County owns certain real estate located in Guernsey, Poweshiek County, Iowa, described as: **Lot A in Lot 8 in Lot 2 in the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 15, Township 79, Range 13 West of the 5th P.M., according to the Plat thereof appearing of record in Survey Book 1, Page 98.**

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Code of Iowa Section 331.361, the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors is required to publish notice not less than four (4) nor more than twenty (20) days before a public hearing; and following the public hearing by resolution approve or reject the proposed disposition of the property, and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Roger L & Mary M Steffen were deeded Lot 8 in Lot 2 by deed recorded in Book 373, Page 200. In 1979 Larry D & Julie A Grier were deeded Lot 9 in Lot 2 by deed recorded in Book 380, Page 335. In 1981, a survey of Lot A in Lot 8 in Lot 2 and Lot A in Lot 9 in Lot 2 was recorded in Survey Book 1, Page 98. In 1982, Roger L & Mary M Steffen deeded to Poweshiek County Lot A in Lot 8 in Lot 2 recorded at Book 398, Page 147; and Larry D & Julie Grier deeded to Poweshiek County Lot A in Lot 9 in Lot 2 recorded at Book 398, Page 146.

WHEREAS, the intent was for Poweshiek County to build a maintenance shop on this land but that fell through so the intent was to convey Lot A in Lot 8 in Lot 2 and Lot A in Lot 9 in Lot 2 back to the original owners. A deed from Poweshiek County to Larry D & Julie Grier for Lot A in Lot 9 in Lot 2 was recorded at Book 401, Page 440. WHEREAS, research of the real estate records show that there was never a deed recorded from Poweshiek County conveying Lot A in Lot 8 in Lot 2 back to Roger L & Mary M Steffen and it is the intent of Poweshiek County to convey said real estate back to Steffens, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors of Poweshiek County, Iowa will hold a public hearing on the 17 day of March 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom, Courthouse, Montezuma, Iowa to determine the advisability of the disposal of certain real estate, more particularly described as follows: Lot A in Lot 8 in Lot 2 in the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 15, Township 79, Range 13 West of the 5th P.M., according to the Plat thereof appearing of record in Survey Book 1, Page 98. 2. The described real estate will be transferred on an "as is" basis. 3. The Quit Claim Deed will be prepared by Bart Klaver, Poweshiek County Attorney. 4. The chairman of Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors and the Poweshiek County Auditor are hereby authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents required for the transfer of the described real estate. 5. Further information regarding the disposition of real estate may be obtained by contacting the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors.

6. That this resolution, preceded by the caption, "Notice of DISPOSAL OF REAL ESTATE" and except this paragraph, be published as notice of the aforesaid proposal, hearing and sale. Dated this 24 day of February 2025. POWESHIEK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jeff Tindle, Chairman
Jason Roudabush, Vice Chairman
Jacki Bolen, Member
Attest: Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush at 9:30 a.m. to go into closed session under Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i). 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen at 10:14 a.m. to end the closed session. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve engagement letter to State Auditor for FY24 audit and authorize Chairman Tindle to sign. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve examination engagement letter to State Auditor for FY24 audit and authorize Chairman Tindle to sign. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to authorize payment for NexLog base system recorder for emergency call-taking and dispatch to capture, record, archive all calls, videos, and screen activity and provide immediate research, replay, and export capabilities; also, along with a 3-year maintenance plan. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

10:53 a.m. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor
Jeff Tindle, Chairman

February 27, 2025

The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Jason Roudabush, Jackie Bolen, and Jeff Tindle. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve February 24, 2025 board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve February 28, 2025 payroll for \$318,098.92. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve the following claims: All American Pest Control Svc 43.00 Alliant Energy/IPL Svc 2,002.38 Amazon Goods 566.12 American Home Finding Assn Svc 1,446.15

APs Lighting & Safety Goods 283.80 Benton County Sheriff Svc 84.50 Binns & Stevens Explosives Goods 2,622.00

Boone County Sheriff Svc 44.50 Brooklyn Hardware Goods 232.74 Brooklyn Mun Utilities Svc 71.67 Browns Shoe Fit Goods 225.00 Central Iowa Detention Ctr Svc 3,734.53 Central Salt, LLC Goods 11,067.77 Chemsearch Goods 296.20 Cintas Corporation Goods 175.56 Craig Kuntz Reimb Goods 370.26 Day & Moninger Reimb Goods 20.78 Forbes Office Equip Inc Goods 353.00 Foundation 2 Svc 1,399.50 Galyn Nook Reimb Phone 35.96 Garcia Clinical Laboratory Svc 8.00 German Plumbing & Heating Svc 244.00 Grinnell Herald Register Svc 610.92 Grinnell Regional Public Health Svc 15,078.09

Hall's Feed & Seed Svc 170.50 Heartland Shredding Inc Svc 75.00 Henderson Products Inc. Goods 1,422.66 Henry M Adkins & Son Inc Goods 6,796.00

Hometown Hardware Goods 259.99 Iowa Atty Generals Office Svc 28.00 Iowa Dept Of Public Health Svc 4,175.00 Iowa Dept Of Transportation Svc 300.00 IP Pathways Svc 1,490.01 ISAC Svc 210.00 ISCTA Svc 315.00 Jasper County Sheriff Svc 79.60 Kloster Funeral Home Svc 375.00 Kolten Kudart Reimb Goods 382.42 Liebovich Steel & Alum Co. Goods 1,843.98

Liftoff LLC Svc 10,539.12 Live Deep Publishing LLC Svc 40.00 Maser County Gro Svc 140.06 Martin Equip Of II, Inc. Svc 10,710.44 Melissa Eilander Reimb Phone 46.84 Mid American Energy Svc 56.34 Midwest Alarm Services Svc 535.26 Montezuma Mun Utilities Svc 186.66 Napa Auto Parts Goods 37.12 P&L Iowa Assessors Assn Svc 375.00 Office Depot Goods 199.95 Pitney Bowes Goods 174.29 Poweshiek County E-911 Goods 32,311.68

Poweshiek County Sheriff Svc 99.90 Premier Office Equip/RK Dixon Svc 8.42

Quill Corporation Goods 77.42 Reliance Telephone Inc Svc 100.00 Ryan Miller Reimb Goods 74.40 Safety X-Treme, LLC Goods 2,584.64 Sandy Ross Reimb Goods 156.76 SEAT Svc 200.00 Secretary Of State Svc 60.00 Snap On Tools Goods 243.00 Stellar Services LLC Svc 435.36 Story County Sheriff Svc 67.20 Taylor Auto Body, Inc Svc 7,996.50 The Depot Express Goods 21.61 Trico Industries, Inc. Goods 1,139.13 TTP Rural Electric Coop Svc 597.60 Tyler Technologies Svc 29,517.00 United States Cellular Svc 201.77 Valsco Corporation Inc Svc 175.00 Verizon Svc 240.06 Vestis Svc 68.33 Victor Oil, Inc. Svc 1,590.69 West Payment Center Svc 464.25 Windstream Svc 239.26

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Arts & Crafts SHOW
Over 250 Exhibitors
Bring This Ad To Show For \$1 Off Adm.

Wmpf Group LLC Svc 304.72 Xerox Financial Svcs Svc 383.49 Youth Shelter Care Svc 39.79 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Board received notification from the Auditor of State that the FY24 audit report will likely not be completed by March 31 and therefore, an extension is needed. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to authorize Chairman Tindle to sign letter requesting an extension for filing of the FY24 audit report.

Chris Nolte, VA Director met with board for monthly meeting. Nolte discussed with the board a memorandum of understanding with Iowa Relief and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). This program would offer mileage reimbursement to veteran volunteers who provide transportation for other veterans to medical appointments. Nolte stated he has been in contact with the Governor to schedule a time for her to be present at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the VA office new location. Nolte also advised the board of a veterans benefit fair to be held May 17 from 10 am to Noon at the Elks Lodge in Grinnell.

Nolte also stated that the VA Commission at the meeting Wednesday approved to re-appoint Linda Stoll as VA Commissioner for another 3-year term. Board will consider this for approval at next board meeting. Lyle Brehm, Engineer provided the board with plans for Section 28, Deep River Township (520th Avenue). Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve and sign plans. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Brehm took bids on a cold storage shed in Grinnell and presented this information and recommendation for award. The bids received were:

- Lynnville Construction \$149,000
- ProLine \$153,099
- Eick & Day \$177,500
- Edge \$198,400
- MK Construction \$225,000
- Robison Construction N/A (no bid bond)

Brehm recommends the board award the project to low bidder, Lynnville Construction, for \$149,000. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to accept bid from Lynnville Construction for \$149,000 and direct chair to sign contract. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Brehm stated there are grants available through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and applying for these grants requires the county to have a local road safety plan. Iowa received a grant through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program to develop the plan for 97 counties at no cost to the individual counties. Brehm is in the process of preparing this plan. One of the action items for the plan is a pledge to work towards safer roads. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve SS4A safety pledge. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Board reviewed draft of the proposed FY26 budget. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to propose tax rate levy & set a public hearing date of March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the proposed tax levy.

11:18 a.m. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor
Jeff Tindle, Chairman

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March 7-9

VARIED INDUSTRIES BLDG. IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS
DES MOINES, IOWA
Fri. 5-9; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4
ADM: Just \$7.00 FREE PARKING (10 & under free) Free Shuttle Bus Service from North Parking Lot on both Fri. & Sat. 3-day re-entry stamp
Where You Can Buy That Quality, Handmade Product Callahan Promotions, Inc. 563-357-1986
To Purchase Discounted Admission Tickets and For A Chance To Win \$50 Gift Certificates Visit Our Facebook Page At Callahan Promotions, Inc.

Opinion

House debates gender bill

By State Rep. Thomas Gerhold

I hope you're doing well and enjoying the nice weather this week.

We debated only one bill this week (Feb. 28), Senate File 418. This bill provides the very much needed protection for female sports and privacy in schools and public facilities.

Twenty-seven other states do not have gender identity in their codes, including the federal civil rights code. This bill does NOT take away basic rights that all of us have.

Be safe and healthy out there, and have a great weekend.

FROM THE IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICAN NEWSLETTER

This week the House Judiciary Committee spent a significant time listening to constituents and discussing House File 583. This bill seeks to establish clear definitions for sex and gender in state law, promoting a straightforward understanding of these terms.

The bill defines sex strictly as male or female

based on biological characteristics from birth. It emphasizes that gender should be understood as synonymous with sex, rejecting the idea of gender identity as a separate category.

The term "gender identity" is removed from the civil rights code, and elsewhere. Under current law, gender identity is a gender-related identity of a person regardless of the person's sex assigned at birth (216.2 (12)). This definition is struck and replaced with the clear definitions of sex, male,

and female.

It requires that all birth certificates include a designation of a person's sex, ensuring consistency and clarity in vital records. The ensures that laws treat males and females equally in various situations, such as in schools and public facilities. The bill provides a necessary framework for understanding sex and gender, helping to protect the rights of individuals while maintaining traditional definitions.

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Iowa County approves trail expansion on levy

By Winona Whitaker, Hometown Current

MARENGO — Phil Brecht asked Iowa County last month for approval to expand Marengo's trail system across the top of the county's levy.

The Army Corps of Engineers has already approved the expansion, said Brecht, who spoke for the committee working an expansion of the existing trail at Gateway Park.

The trail committee received approval for the east side of the park from Highway 411 (Eastern Avenue) all the way to the railroad tracks, said Brecht. Later, the committed added 6/10 of a mile on the west side, and the Corp approved that as well.

"I don't see ... any problems with it," said Travis Schlachach, Iowa County Drainage District Superintendent. However, he wants a clause in the contract that stipulates that the county will not be responsible for maintenance.

"The drainage district is not maintaining this," Schlachach said.

Iowa County Conservation maintains the current trail, but Brecht said the trail committee plans to have volunteer cleanup days and to maintain the trail using donation money.

"We don't want to add to any taxpayer costs," said Brecht.

"I'm OK as long as the Corps is OK with it," said Iowa County Supervisor Kevin Heitshusen. Schlachach said he ran the plan by the County Attorney Tim McMeen who had no concerns about it.

Schlachach thinks that having the trail on the levy will have a positive impact. "When you do have activity, it keeps some of your critters ... away," said Schlachach. The presence of walkers and bikers on the rail

might keep muskrats from burrowing in.

Schlachach said the drainage district will put up some staggered fences so people can walk right through without having to open gates.

The setup makes the bicycles slow down, said Schlachach, "so that they can't just blow right across 212 or blow right across 411."

The fences will be removable so Schlachach and the Corps can drive the levy if they need to. Schlachach said one resident along the route asked that the city put up signage to keep people from leaving the trail and walking on his private property, and that will be done.

The trail will be gravel, said Brecht. "I do not want it concrete ... because running on concrete is terrible. Gravel's just a more natural environment."

Parking will not be available by the levy, said Schlachach. "We have no place to park, so we are out of that."

Parking is available at Gateway Park and on South Street at the Fairgrounds, said Brecht.

Marengo will be putting a sewer pipe over part of the levy in the next year or so, said Schlachach, a Marengo city councilman. The city sewer lagoon is going to discharge at the river.

After the pipe is laid, dirt will be brought in to cover it, and the trail will go over it. "They have that all engineered," said Schlachach.

That part of the trail may not be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, said Schlachach.

That area is on a last little dead end, said Brecht. It will be a 5.5% grade. ADA requires 5% or less. But Brecht said engineers might be able to adjust the slope to 5% or under.