

2 less expensive options favored on slough project

By JOE KONZ
Staff writer

A report on various funding options available to the City of Muscatine to finance a proposed Slough Development project will be presented to the Muscatine City Council at a meeting next month.

After some discussion at Monday night's in-depth session, aldermen appeared to favor two of the less expensive project options presented in a feasibility report by Stanley Consultants, Inc.

Interest in some kind of corrective activity at the slough area near Kent-Stein Park surfaced recently when continued silt and drainage problems with storm sewers and the unsightly appearance of the area became more obvious.

The Stanley study described how the city could dredge the area and develop it into a recreational resources outlet.

One of the proposals favored by the council included a park commission-endorsed amendment to one of the major projects.

At its Nov. 8 meeting, the park commission recommended the city concentrate on initial, phase-one dredging work and installation of siltation weirs for a cost of \$411,000 including the cost of administrative and contingency allowances.

Aldermen also seem to favor a supplemental proposal presented in Monday night's agenda which involves dredging only about one-third of the slough area at a cost of \$223,000. Both council-favored projects have an anticipated annual maintenance cost of \$2,048.

However, neither favored projects includes provisions to develop the slough area for water-oriented recreation except for possible winter ice skating.

The three other Stanley proposals, ranging in cost from \$522,450 to \$649,900, include plans to develop recreational resources.

"I can have Jeff (Schott, city planner) and Arlen (Wiggs, community develop-

ment director) present a report on the funds available for this at the Dec. 16 council meeting," said Charles W. Coates, city administrator.

"Hopefully on the 16th we can get a recommendation and then start with the environmental impact statement," he said.

Shortly after the environmental impact statement, Coates said, the city would have to re-contract with a firm for the design, plans and specifications for the selected project.

He said the council must:

- Define what project it wishes to support.
- Determine how much Block Grant money is available.
- Decide if it wants to expand the project to include some beautification and some recreation around the perimeter area of the slough.

In another matter, Coates introduced a plan by which the city could handle excess monies left over from a department's budget at the end of the fiscal year.

In previous years, he explained, the council has authorized a department to carry-over the money for expenditure in a following year.

"With the current tight financial situation with the general fund," he said, the city has suggested the elimination of all departmental contingency funds and the creation of one general contingency fund which could be available for emergencies.

The department needing contingency funds would have to come before the council and document its need, Coates said. "As long as there's documentation, there should be no problem," he said.

Documentation, he expanded, will be stressed to each of the departments during the preparation of their budgets. The general fund contingency account, he said, would still allow the city some flexibility "to set up those needs that need to be set up."

Further information about the budget preparation will be provided to the council as the process develops, Coates said.

The winter season provided the topics for the Muscatine Toastmasters at their meeting held Monday evening at Paxtons.

Wayne Brugger presided and John McCormick was toastmaster. Bode Labode gave the invocation and served as topicmaster; Dick Witter, chief evaluator; John Galewski, grammarian; and Don Kiser, timer.

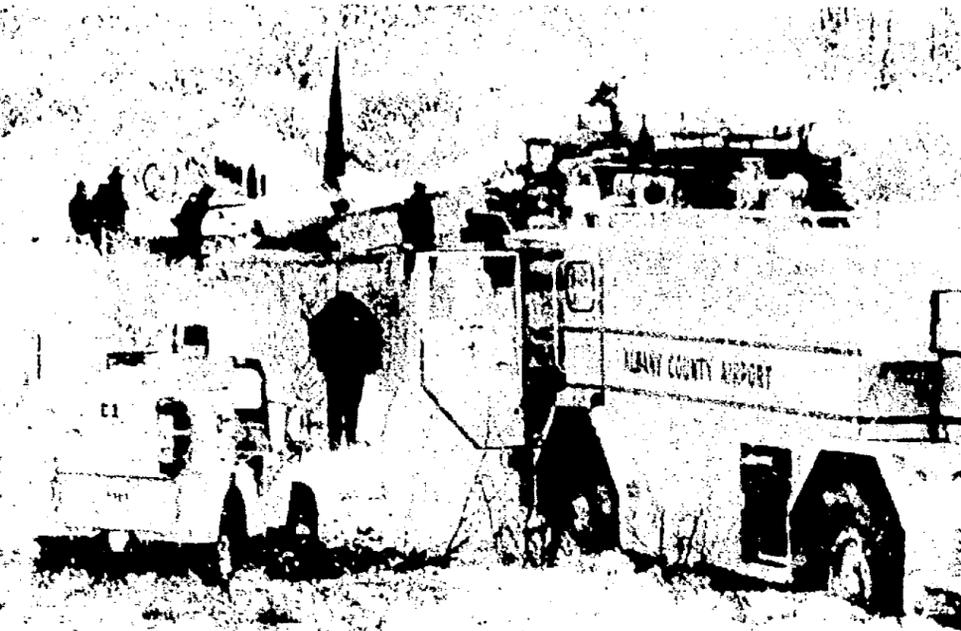
Topic speakers included: Wayne Brugger, "Thanksgiving Isn't What it Used to Be"; John Galewski, "Winterize Your Mind"; Jim Kemper, "Surviving a Blizzard"; Erv Nesheim, "The Ice Age is Coming"; and Max Churchill, "Leftover Turkey Recipes."

Prepared speeches were given by: Steve Yankee, "Road Closed"; and Ralph Jackson, "The Master Builders."

Max Churchill and Wayne Brugger served as critics for the evening. Awards went to: speaker, Yankee and Jackson; critic, Max Churchill; and topic, Wayne Brugger.

Kenneth M. and Katherine M. Ritchie to Dean Edward and Diane Marie Beranek, warranty deed, part out lot 3 of subdivision in section 12-78-4W.

Deeds recorded



(AP Laserphoto)

Short flight

A Mall airways commuter flight crash landed on a snowy hillside Monday just a quarter mile north of the Albany, N. Y. county airport. It had failed to gain

power after taking off for western New York just seconds before. The four passengers and two crew members aboard the plane all walked away from the crash unhurt.

Low record flows on Mississippi River

Low flow records were equalled and exceeded on the Mississippi River in the Rock Island District of the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1976, according to Colonel Daniel L. Lycan, Rock Island District Engineer.

The lowest stage or water level on the Mississippi River at Davenport from 1860, when people began keeping records, to the present was minus 1.4 feet on Dec. 15-16 and 21 to 25 Dec. 1933, before the nine-foot canalization project was completed. Dam No. 16 at Muscatine, which formed the nine-foot channel below Dam No. 15 at Davenport, Iowa, and now controls low stages at Davenport, was completed and

placed in operation on July 10, 1937. Since that date, the lowest river stage recorded just below Dam No. 15 was 2.5 feet on Aug. 28-29, 1941.

Low flows on the Mississippi

River this year, because of the prolonged lack of precipitation, have resulted in the river level reaching the same 2.5 stage twice in 1976; once on Aug. 10 and again on

Nov. 9 of this year.

There were low flows and low water levels recorded on the Mississippi River as far back as 1864. The zero or bottom of most of the gauges on the Mississippi River were set at the low water levels of 1864. River flows at Saverton, Mo., for 1864 have been computed as approximately 20,000 cubic feet per cubic second.

The lowest flow on record for the month of November at Saverton, Mo., before the nine-foot channel lock and dam system was built, was 11,000 cubic feet per second on Nov. 30, 1893.

A new low flow record for the month of November of 10,700 cubic feet per second was established on Nov. 11, at Dam No. 22 at Saverton.

The second lowest flow of 14,900 cubic feet per second at Saverton, was on Nov. 27, 1933, prior to the completion of the lock and dam system.

The previous record low flow for the month of November since Dam No. 22 at Saverton, went into operation in July 1938, was 16,400 cubic feet per second on Nov. 27, 1950.

The all year record low flow for the Mississippi River in the lower part of the Rock Island District of the Corps of Engineers was 5,000 cubic feet per second, recorded at the Keokuk, Iowa, hydroelectric power dam on Dec. 4, 1933. This was before the nine-foot channel system of locks and dams was completed on the Upper Mississippi River.

Insurance and personnel on hospital board agenda

Malpractice insurance and personnel matters will be on the agenda for tonight's regular meeting of the Muscatine General Hospital Board of Trustees.

The board is expected to reach a decision soon whether to purchase its professional liability insurance coverage from the Iowa Hospital Mutual Insurance Corporation (IHMIC), a newly formed firm, or to continue its coverage with the St. Paul Insurance Company, St. Paul, Minn.

Representatives from both firms have met with the board in recent weeks to discuss their 1977 proposals. The board current policy expires March 1, 1977.

Trustees will also act on recommendations from the board's wage and salary committee on a number of personnel matters.

The trustees will meet at 7 p.m. in the hospital's basement conference room.

Rotary hears talk on coronary risk

Rotarians heard Dr. Ronald Lauer, head of the Coronary Risk Factor Program in Muscatine, discuss some of the findings in the program when he spoke at their meeting Monday noon.

He said it is probable that measurements made on students in first grade could be indicative of problems that will occur in high school and later years. Detailed and continuing records are being kept on cholesterol, blood pressure, etc. in the high-risk groups. The other family members of this group are being studied also.

These statistics gathered in Muscatine are the first of their kind available and will be used by doctors all over the nation.

Verna May Wilson, associate of Dr. Lauer, was a guest of the club, as was Karen Stanhope, who also works with the program.

Rich Barry and Cory Berry were high school student guests.

Floyd Scott took names for members tending the Salvation Army kettles on Fridays and Saturdays until Christmas.

Toastmasters talk about winter weather

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Muscatine woman's case heard by U.S. court

The case of a Muscatine mother concerning food stamps and whether a travel allowance should be classified as "income" was heard Monday by the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

Karen Hein, Muscatine divorced mother of two, was paid a government travel allowance of \$44 a month to commute from her home to St. Luke's School of Nursing, Davenport.

The State of Iowa urged the court to class the money as "income" while her attorney argued that such a ruling would be unfair because it would deprive her of needed food stamps, as well as discouraging her from becoming a nurse.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Department of Social Services ruled the allowance to be "income," thereby requiring

her to pay an additional \$12 a month for food stamps.

A year ago a special three-judge federal district court panel in Iowa struck down the regulations on the grounds they violated the intent of Congress to encourage food stamp recipients to obtain educational training.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision is expected to have national significance beyond its impact in Iowa. A Washington law professor said the "price tag" on the case "could easily exceed \$1 billion" in additional government expenditures.

Deeds recorded

Innocent plea entered in manslaughter case

Dennis L. Hidlebaugh of Muscatine pled innocent Monday in District Court to a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of his 14-month-old step-daughter.

Hidlebaugh, 22, who was arrested Nov. 4 by county officials after the conclusion of a long investigation by the Muscatine County Sheriff's Department and Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI),

is charged in connection with the Aug. 18 death of Heather Douglas Hidlebaugh.

Hidlebaugh, who was represented in court Monday by A. Wayne Eckhardt, waived his right to a speedy trial.

Judge Robert K. Stohr ordered all pre-trial motions to be filed by Dec. 27. Any motions filed, Stohr said, would be heard on Jan. 3, 1977. The judge also ordered discovery procedures to be completed by Feb. 23.

Police report

Rudolfo Mendosa, 20, 48 Orange St., was arrested by Muscatine police Monday night on a warrant issued by Muscatine County Associate District Court.

Mendosa was charged with failing to appear in court after signing a summons.

In addition to the one arrest, four thefts and two accidents were reported to police.

Tim Stalcup, 410 W. 6th St., said someone stole a 20-inch Schwinn bicycle from his garage sometime between last Thursday and Monday. The bike is valued at \$89.

Connie Whitlow, 400 Cherry St., reported the theft of her son's coat and gloves from a Muscatine High School shop class. The items are valued at \$36.

Mrs. Robert Anderson, Rt. 3, said \$30 was stolen from her

daughter's billfold while the girl was at work Friday night at Sandy's.

Gary R. Holmes, manager of Holmes Equipment, Rt. 6, reported the theft of two tires and rims valued at \$75 each and two rear mount tractor blades valued at \$400 each. Holmes said the theft occurred sometime last week.

The accidents:

Friday (9:25 p.m.) — A car driven by Larry D. Kemp, 36, 1017 E. 2nd St., collided with a tractor driven by Ronald L. Bryant, 16, 903 E. 2nd St., on Lombard Street near alley 2. The collision forced one of the vehicles to strike a parked car owned by James Lemkau, 1238 Vista Court.

Tuesday (2:08 a.m.) — A car driven by David G. Weiershauser, 25, 1014 Iowa Ave., hit an ice spot while it was traveling on Mississippi Drive. The car left the road, hit a Muscatine Power and Water utility pole and came to rest on a railroad circuit box.

Elks plan Memorial Service Sunday

The Elks annual Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5.

Rev. Wes Snodgrass will deliver the address.

The public is invited.

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The following items on order for our advertising section in tonight's paper are not available at this time due to manufacturers late shipments...Kodak film, quilted bedrest, men's leather and rope style coats, boy's warm-up suit, needlework-look twin spread, 110 pocket camera, portable typewriter, 1727 color TV, 318 vacuum, 10/50 battery charger, rivet gun, and heavy-duty staple gun.

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