

Sum is less than original —

County to spend

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1975

\$5,000 for Arbor Lake

The Poweshiek County Conservation Board and the Grinnell City Council have renewed their agreement to develop Arbor Lake in southwest Grinnell, although the county will be spending considerably less than originally was earmarked for the project.

At a meeting Monday, the decision was made to proceed with redevelopment of Arbor Lake, which was once a popular recreation area. Siltation and other problems forced the city to drain the lake, however, and the area remained neglected for several years.

Money not Spent

Originally, the conservation board decided to spend \$15,000 per year to develop the land over a three-year period, although the decision apparently was never put in writing. The county said it would spend the money, provided the city would assume responsibility for redeveloping the water area.

The conservation board has contended that the city has not yet done its share of the work.

Some city officials disagree, however. City Manager Ted Clausen said Monday that the silt-removal effort at Arbor Lake is now nearly two-thirds complete, and workmen continue the job of scooping up the tons of silt from the lake bed.

So far, the city has spent approximately \$7,000 of the \$40,000 budgeted for the work. Dirt scooped from the lake bed is being hauled away and used for fill.

At Monday's meeting, the conservation board agreed to spend \$5,000 on the program between now and next July. More money can be appropriated at that time.

Plans for city-county cooperation on the project have been in effect since the 1960s. In April of 1969, a resolution was formally adopted by the city council concerning the agreement with the county.

The written agreement called for the county to construct access roads, develop a picnic area and otherwise improve the land for recreational purposes.

Shortly after the agreement was signed, the city drained the lake. But the silt-removal work was hampered by soggy conditions in the lake bed, and dredging was considered too expensive. The city did, however, hire a private contractor to begin scooping out the silt, and that work continues.

It is unlikely that the \$5,000 now earmarked for the county's share of the project, will accomplish much, but city officials hope that more will be appropriated for the next fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the city will continue its work, aiming for the time when the lake can be allowed to refill with water.

The park area would be developed on the east shore of the lake, and some of the heavy timber would be allowed to remain.

County officials first plan to do some clearing and leveling of the area which will be made into a park.