

Draft  
Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday November 17, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. The regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month had been moved due to Board Member scheduling conflicts. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig, and Steve Weymiller. Attending from the public was Bruce Palmborg and Dennis Blocker. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, and James Janett.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

Dennis Blocker representing the Allamakee County ATV/UTV Club discussed a number of items with the Board. Items included information on an upcoming meeting being held on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> at Lid's Restaurant in Waukon, Iowa. A number of groups and organizations had been invited to the meeting to discuss the development of an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee County. Blocker wasn't sure the role the Allamakee County Conservation Board would play in the development of a park but would know more after the meeting. Blocker will keep the Board informed of the development of an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee County and possible Board involvement.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding the Allamakee County Historical Society plans for taking management of the Vet's Club in Waukon. There is merging of the military displays from the Old Courthouse Museum into the Vet's Club along with other military artifacts that are in the process of being donated to the Historical Society. Other changes may include relocating the genealogy area into the Vet's Club building. The Historical Society is in the process of retaining consultant's for both architectural and interpretive display services for the Vet's Club Building.

COVID 19 procedures and recent record exposure rates were discussed by the Board. The Director voiced concerns for possible staff exposure due to the number of visitors. The Board discussed the status of other similar County, State, and Federal facilities. The Director informed the Board the majority of facilities were closed or open by appointment. After discussion of National, Regional, and Local COVID 19 infection rates the Board supported the Director's request to shut down the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center until after the Holiday Season.

The Director provided information to the Board regarding ownership of right-of-way along White Pine Drive at the Waterville Farm 55. Secondary Roads had researched ownership of a small narrow strip on the property that a former rail road line occupied. The area in question would include the entrance to Waterville Farm 55. The Director noted there had not been any request for an easement into the Park. The Board would like the Director to start the process of having an easement drafted for the entrance to Waterville Farm 55 so it doesn't become an issue in the future.

The Director informed the Board he had been contacted by a company that monitors barge traffic on the river, they were interested in placing an antenna on the Driftless Center. The Center would in turn would have free access to their website. No action was taken on the proposal and the Director will keep the Board informed.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding public input about the possibility of the Board purchasing some property on the Upper Iowa River for a canoe access off Rosebud Drive. The Director informed the Board he had been in contact with landowners and they were receptive to selling some area for a possible canoe access. The Board would like the Director to follow up with the landowners to obtain the amount of area needed, possible purchase cost, and development cost. The Director informed the Board should the project move forward there would be some grant opportunities to cost share the project.

Informational items discussed by the Board included completing and submitting the Fish Habitat Grant, Board viewing of Army Corps of Engineers public information displays at the office on the Conway Lake Island Restoration Project, trees recently donated to the Board from Dubuque County Conservation Board. Other informational items included fencing that had been completed on the Bear Creek Property near Quandahl, closing of facilities for the winter season, and updated on the dredging and new docks at Village Creek Boat Landing. The Director informed the Board he had been contacted by a landowner along Upper Iowa Drive regarding the preservation of a possible archeological site on his property.

The next board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday December 1, 2020.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Koenig to adjourn the meeting, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.