

Draft

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday February 2, 2021 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig, and Steve Weymiller. Attending from the public was Doris Huinker, and Mark Reiser from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors, Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

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 Weymiller, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

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

The Board discussed the design and cost share of a proposed Driftless Area Scenic Byway Hub to be placed at the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. Staff from RC&D had presented to the Board about the placement of the information hubs at various locations along the Driftless Area Scenic Byway in a past Board meeting. RC&D has asked the Board to provide a \$1,000.00 match for the construction and installation of the information hub at the Driftless Area Education Center if the grant submitted to the Allamakee County Community Foundation is funded. A motion was made by Carroll to approve the funding request to RC&D for the grant match should the grant be funded, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

COVID 19 procedures and planning for reopening the Driftless Center were discussed. The Director recommended opening the Driftless Center up in the next week. Mask mandates and reduced capacity policies will remain active.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding the purchasing of property on the Upper Iowa River for a canoe access off Red Bud Drive. The Director informed the Board he had been in contact with landowners and the Mohn surveying. The survey work is in the process of being completed. The Director also noted that he had ordered a site survey and development plan for completing grant work and the permitting process.

Supervisor Mark Reiser conveyed his concerns about the Allamakee County Conservation Board's management of Iowa DNR areas and the County paying for a roof replacement on the maintenance shop in Harpers Ferry. The Board will have the Director check with the Iowa DNR regarding any available funds to help with the roof replacement and management of areas.

The Board discussed the construction of a concrete observation deck at the Harpers Ferry Boat Landing. The project would allow for a 15' x 50' area built on the high-water portion of the landing which over-looks Harpers Slough and both the upper & lower boat ramps . The area receives considerable use as public meeting and picnic area.

The Board discussed the placement of a swing set at Stonebrook Park. The Foundation recently received a \$2,500.00 donation from Debra Masek whose father was longtime Conservation Board member Chuck Fishback. The Director suggested the swing set be paid by the donation in memory of Chuck Fishback. A motion was made by Koenig to proceed with the swing set purchase and installation, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

Updates were provided to the Board on education programs and performing remote education programs. Ross Geerdes informed the Board that he has programs scheduled in the schools for later in the current week.

The Board discussed helping the Allamakee County Historical Society construct a small shelter house for the Waukon Iron Mine coal car display. The Historical Society will pay for the materials to construct the shelter. Board staff discussed the timing of completing the project which depends on when permits are approved for other projects. The Board approved helping the Historical Society and instructed the staff to coordinate completing the project.

The next board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday March 2, 2021.

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.