

Draft  
Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday January 5, 2021 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig, and Steve Weymiller. Attending from the public was Mark Reiser from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors, Bruce Palmborg and Dennis Blocker. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olsen.

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 Weymiller, 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.

The Board conducted election of Officers for the upcoming year. A motion was made by Clark for Delaney to serve as Chairperson of the Allamakee County Conservation Board, second Weymiller, all in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Weymiller to have Clark serve as Vice-Chairperson for the Allamakee County Conservation Board, second by Delaney, 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 a recent meeting regarding the development of an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee County. Representatives from the State of Iowa ATV group indicated there should be funding available to purchase land in Allamakee County for an ATV park. Blocker also said the group thought there was a possibility of funding a staff person for developing and maintaining the ATV park. The Club was working on a number of locations for an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee. Blocker will keep the Board updated on Club activities.

Installing an electrical vehicle charging station at the Driftless Center was discussed by the Board. Assistant Director Olson discussed recent funding for the installation of charging stations in Clayton County that were submitted to and funded by the Clayton County Gaming Commission from the Clayton County Energy District. The Board will continue to research the design and cost of a charging station for the Driftless Center. Discussion from the Board included charging stations are becoming more common and that having one at the Driftless Center would be a positive amenity.

COVID 19 procedures and recent record exposer rates were discussed by the Board. The Director voiced concerns for possible staff exposer 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 will evaluate reopening the Driftless Center during the February 2001 monthly meeting.

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 Red Bud Drive. The Director informed the Board he had been in contact with landowners and they were receptive to selling and donating 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, development cost, and obtain approval from the Board of Supervisors. The Director informed the Board the project should move forward and there would be some grant opportunities to cost share the project.

Updates were provided to the Board on education programs and performing remote education programs. It was conveyed to the Board that schools in the County will hopefully be less restrictive and will be allowing education programs back in person soon.

Informational items discussed by the Board included the Fish Habitat Grant for the Garret Property being funded for \$39,496.00, scheduling a budget review with the Board of Supervisors, collecting Board member mileage, recent Conservation Foundation donations, River and Ridge Outdoors owner Mark Peterson donating food for all the live animal displays, updates on dredging at Heytman's Landing and Village Creek Boat Landing, dock purchasing, the donation of flying squirrels and a bob cat pelt to the Driftless Center, and the replacement of a air exchanger motor for the HVC system.

The next board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday February 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.