

Draft
Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday August 2, 2022 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 included Dennis Blocker, Jamie Cahalan, and Beau Bennet. Attending the meeting via phone during the ATV/UTV agenda item was Dan Kleen from the Iowa OHV Club. Also attending Mark Reiser from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors, and 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 the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting were approved upon a motion by Clark, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

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

Representatives of the Iowa OHV Association Board and Allamakee County ATV/UTV Club continued conversations with the Conservation Board regarding the Club's effort to purchase and develop an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee County. The ATV/UTV Club Members discussed funding that is available for the acquisition, development, maintenance, and insurance coverage of the park. The Club would like for Allamakee County to own the park, lease the property back to the ATV/UTV Club and make a twenty-year commitment to operating the property as an ATV/UTV Park. State of Iowa generated registration fees are available to the Club for the acquisition, development, maintenance, and insurance of the park. The Club discussed different maintenance options of the property, one option was the Club would reimburse the County for expenses, or they could bill the same expenses directly back to the Iowa DNR. The Club discussed the operations of eight other ATV/UTV Parks in the State of Iowa. There is a standard management agreement document the Iowa OHV Association uses at other ATV/UTV parks in Iowa, the Club will provide a draft 28-E Management Agreement for the proposed property for the County to review. The ATV/UTV Club isn't able to disclose the location of the two properties due to the possibility of losing the willing seller. The Director advised it was highly unlikely the Board of Supervisors would approve the donation without knowing the location of the properties and the ATV/UTV Club would have to address the matter with the Board of Supervisors. The Club discussed the acquisition was time sensitive and they would like to move on the purchase in the near future. After discussion on the proposal, a motion was made by Koenig to accept the property subject to completing a management agreement approved by Allamakee County, fulfilling insurance requirements of Allamakee County, approval of all necessary Allamakee County Planning and Zoning requirements, and approval from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors, second Weymiller, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director conveyed information to the Board on a possible purchase of land on the Upper Iowa River. The 4.8-acre property would provide for public fishing access. The Director informed the Board there would be some grant opportunities to purchase and develop of the property through the Fish Habitat Grant Program. A motion was made by Clark to move forward with the possible acquisition of the property, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

RAGBRAI limited road access to Village Creek Boat Landing was discussed by the Board. Village Creek Boat Landing is one of the highest use Landings in Pools 9 and 10 with a tournament scheduled for the bike event end day. The Director has made contact regarding having a person allow access to the entrance of Village Creek Boat Landing from the intersection Lansing/Harpers Road to ensure vehicle access to Village Creek Boat Landing.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding the 5th Anniversary event for the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center being held Thursday August 11th between 5:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. A social hour will be followed by a brief program and a silent auction. Invites have been mailed this week to donors and Board Members.

The rail road bridge replacement at Heytman's Landing was discussed by the Board. The Landing was going to be closed the soon. The IDNR had been in communication with the Canadian Pacific Rail Road regarding the bridge design and permitting of dredging on rail road right of way. A compromise had been reached for completing the bridge and allowing dredging. The IDNR is working on bid specifications to be let in the near future for dredging work on the eastside of the railroad tracks for improved boat access from the main channel to the landing. The landing will more than likely be closed for the remaining boating season.

Department updates to the Board included project news release in the newspaper, Village Creek Boat Landing dredge spoil removal progress, bench donations for Harpers Ferry Boat Landing, an upcoming meeting with the IDNR on paving the Harpers Ferry Boat Landing and Wild Turkey Federation grant opportunities.

The next board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday September 06, 2022.

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 2:30 P.M.