

Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday December 6, 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 Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Dan Byrnes, Mark Reiser, and Board Member elect Dennis Keatly. Attending from the public was Jack Knight. Conservation Board staff members attending was Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janet 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 Carroll, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

During public comment time Jack Knight spoke to the Board regarding his interest in Board activities.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year balances and budget summaries were reviewed and approved by the Board upon a motion by Koenig, second Weymiller, all in favor, motion carried. The Director informed the Board reimbursements had been received and deposited for Red Bud Landing and the County Home projects totaling \$48,281.00. Once a budget amendment is completed funds will be deposited back into the construction line item to cover other budgeted construction projects. The Director noted the Fish Habitat Grant totaling \$39,496.00 for the Garrett Property will be included in the budget amendment. Other items to be included in the budget amendment will be the WRAC grant for the canoe/kayak launch at the Village Creek Boat Landing and Fish Habitat Grant for the Upper Iowa River fishing access acquisition if funded at the December 21, 2022 District Meeting.

The Board discussed personnel matters. The Director has not set a firm date for his retirement due to uncertain timing of the Assistant Director possibly taking a different position. The Board discussed the procedure of filling the Director position. The Director will post the position in the ICCS Newsletter, The Waukon Standard, the Court House, and both County Web Pages. Applications will be due for Board review at their January 3, 2023 Board Meeting. Interview dates will be coordinated during the month of January. The Director informed the Board he will remain with the Department during the transition time.

The Water Access Recreation Access Cost Share Agreement for the handicapped canoe and kayak launch at Village Creek Boat Landing had been approved. The grant cost share agreement was reviewed and approved upon a motion by Weymiller, second Carroll, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget. After reviewing the proposed budget, the Board instructed the Director to forward the proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

The Board discussed a fencing agreement with adjoining landowner Jim Hitchens at the Morgan Bridge. Hitchens suggested the Conservation Board do a one-time purchase of cattle gates for the Morgan Bridge and Hitchens would be then responsible for maintaining the gates in the future. The Board suggested to try an electric fence with a solar charger at the bridge.

Informational items discussed by the Board included the status of the aquarium purchase and fund raising, the budget amendment process for grants reimbursements. The budget amendment amounts will be placed on the January 2023 agenda.

The next regular monthly Board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday January 3, 2023.

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 2:10 P.M.