

## **Allamakee County Conservation Board Minutes December 5, 2023**

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session December 5, 2023 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center in Lansing, Iowa. Board members who were present were: Marilyn Clark, Jeanie Carroll, Dennis Koenig and Jesse Delaney. Attending from the Allamakee County Conservation Board staff was Ross Geerdes, Erin Cubbon, Emma Jacobs, and Brody VanderKolk Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Mark Reiser. Attending from the Iowa Department Of Natural Resources was Eric Johnston, Brian Roffman, Nathan Schmitz, Detra Dettman, Kevin Hansen, and Randy Schultz. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the agenda and minutes from the November 7, 2023 regular board meeting were approved with a motion by Carroll and a second by Clark with all members in favor.

There was no public comment.

With the members of the Iowa DNR the board discussed the management agreements for the Harpers Slough Area, Nobles Island Boat Access, Heytman's Landing, and the Harpers Ferry Boat Landing and Shops. Director Geerdes gave an overview of the history of the management contracts between the ACCB and the IADNR. Nathan Schmitz, Right of Way specialist with IA DNR noted that there are 368 agreements between the Iowa DNR and other governmental agencies including Cities and Counties. Most of the contracts are very similar to the ones being considered for renewal. Delaney asked about the length of the contracts and if the contracts were all or nothing. Schmitz noted that the length of the contract is flexible, but most were for the 25-year length. It is possible for either party to terminate the contract at either time with a written notice. He also stated that the contracts could be changed as needed if the board would like a shorter contract. Johnston talked about the work that was done to the house after the ACCB stopped using it as their headquarters in 2017. An evidence storage facility was placed in the basement and the upstairs was remodeled into a residence to hold seasonal staff. Director Geerdes asked what the ACCB would be able to use the house for if they were to retake possession of the house. Schmitz noted that the seasonal housing and cabin style renting that is increasing with County Conservation Boards would be permitted, however long-term rentals would not be permitted. Koenig spoke to the length of the contract noting that a lot of things could change in 25 years. He suggested a shorter contract for 5 years that would be renewed and reviewed by both parties at that time. Delaney asked about the chain of command regarding any needed repairs, maintenance, or concerns with the areas under the management agreement. IADNR staff advised the ACCB to contact their local staff and they will follow up with the appropriate action to proceed. Geerdes commented that in the past Karen Osterkamp from the Guttenburg Fisheries Station was their point of contact with these properties. A motion was made by Carroll to extend the existing contracts past December 31, 2023 while a new contract for 5 years is being finalized. A second motion was made by Koenig. All were in favor.

The time and date for the next meeting was set for January 2, 2024 at 1 p.m. in the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center.

With no additional business the meeting was concluded at 1:58 p.m. with a motion by Koenig and seconded by Carroll to adjourn. All in favor.