

## **Allamakee County Conservation Board Minutes July 11, 2023**

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session June 1, 2023 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center in Lansing, Iowa. Board members who were present were: Jesse Delaney, Marilyn Clark, and Dennis Koenig. Attending from the Allamakee County Conservation Board staff was Ross Geerdes, Erin Cubbon, and Emma Jacobs. Attending from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Mark Reiser.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the agenda and minutes from the June 6, 2023 regular board meeting were approved with a motion by Clark and a second by Carrol with all members in favor.

During public comment Mark Reiser reported on emergency services from within Allamakee County responding to paddlers in distress along the rivers in the Allamakee County and the need for education for inexperienced kayakers on the dangers and logistics involved with river travel.

The Board reviewed and approved claims and revenues with a motion by Clark and a second by Koenig. All in favor.

A review of the 2022/2023 fiscal year budget was conducted. The fiscal year was ended 2.2% under budget with most of that being from various job vacancies throughout the year. The need for looking at each line item before the next budget was discussed with waste disposal being a concern. It was suggested that Town and Country Sanitation be contacted about dumpster rates for the Harpers Ferry location.

Wages for seasonal employees was reviewed. Currently the seasonal employees are at \$12 per hour. It was recommended that Jesse Troendle and Lucas Byrnes receive a \$.50 per hour increase for the remainder of their season and if they choose to return for the 2024 summer season receive an additional \$.50 per hour raise at that time. It was also recommended that Gary Krapfl receive a \$1.00 per hour raise to \$13.00. A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Koenig for the seasonal employee hourly rate changes. All in favor.

A letter from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation asking for an annual membership for \$100 was reviewed. A motion was made by Koenig and seconded by Clark to not purchase an annual membership with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. All in favor.

Informational items presented to the board included: An update on the Volney Park Shelter with the concrete and upright supports being completed. All of the material has been delivered by Ashbachers Building Supply and construction will continue. Several individuals have inquired about using the boat landing areas for constructing personal docks. It was recommended to write a policy to review at the August meeting. The McDowell Property purchase has been completed and the staff will begin to clear the area for public use. EMC insurance representatives visited the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center. Upon their visit it was recommended that the curb outside the building be painted yellow, the sprinkler system be inspected, and boaters safety be taken by anyone who operates the county boat. Timber Stand Improvement will begin in July at Waterville Pines Park. Barbary will be sprayed in July and undesired trees will be cut and removed in October leaving Oak, Walnut, and native white pine trees.

The time and date for the next meeting was set for August 1, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center.

With no additional business the meeting was concluded at 1:50 p.m. with a motion by Koenig and seconded by Clark to adjourn. All in favor.