

DRAFT

Allamakee County Conservation Board Minutes June 6, 2023

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session June 6, 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, Jeanie Carrol, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig and Steve Weymiller. Attending from the Allamakee County Conservation Board staff was Ross Geerdes. 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 May 2, 2023 regular board meeting were approved with a motion by Clark and a second by Carrol with all members in favor.

There was no public comment.

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

The board discussed the membership dues for the Iowa County Conservation System. The dues are currently at \$1,500 which is based on the level of taxpayer support that is received by the county. Benefits of being a member of the ICCS include continuing education for all employees in the system, access to the mcountyparks.com website, job recruitment and file sharing among ICCS members. A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Carrol to approve the ICCS dues for FY2024. All in favor.

ACCB president Jesse Delaney spoke on a proposed letter to the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors expressing the concern members of the Allamakee County Conservation Board have with maintaining an open and active relationship between the members of the ACCB and the Board of Supervisors. The importance of honesty and integrity between both boards was brought up. Board of Supervisors Liaison Mark Reiser expressed his concern with the ACCB maintaining a budget within the County's means and areas that he thought the Conservation Board could improve on. No action was taken on a letter to the board at this time.

The board approved Ross Geerdes, Director of the Allamakee County Conservation Board to sit on the Allamakee County Conservation Foundation as a voting member. A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Carrol. All in favor.

The board approved Emma Jacobs as the hire for the Office Manager/Assistant Naturalist position. A motion was made by Koenig and a second by Weymiller. All in favor.

The board approved the hiring of seasonal employees Jesse Troendle and Lucas Byrnes. A motion was made by Weymiller and a second was made by Clark. All in favor.

Director Geerdes updated the board on the flood and the flood cleanup. All areas are clean and back in service. Nobles Island Boat Access still has debris at this time in the low lying areas where the ground is still wet. The amount of debris in the pit latrines at parks throughout the county was brought up as latrines at Nobles Island and Village Creek Boat Landing had to be pumped empty after the flooding.

June 30 is the last day of the fiscal year for fy22/23. Overall the board is under budget at this time. Bills for materials for a shelter at Volney Park and the McDowell Property acquisition are pending at this time and will be completed before the end of the budget cycle.

Informational items presented to the board included: IPTV has begun filming a new show to air in the summer of 2024 titled "Iowa Roadtrips" The Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center will be featured in their first show. The initial filming was completed in May but more footage will be filmed in the future. A group of individuals from the Harpers Ferry area would like to fundraise for a courtesy dock to be used at the Harpers Ferry Boat landing.

The time and date for the next meeting was set for July 11, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center. This meeting has been moved back 1 week from the traditional first Tuesday of the month in observance of the July 4 Holiday. The regular meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month after July.

With no additional business the meeting was concluded at 2:25 p.m. with a motion by Clark and seconded by Carrol to adjourn. All in favor.