

## **DRAFT**

### **Allamakee County Conservation Board Minutes October 3, 2023**

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session October 3, 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, and Jesse Delaney. Attending from the Allamakee County Conservation Board staff was Ross Geerdes, Erin Cubbon, Emma Jacobs, and Brody Vanderkolk. Present from the public were Dave Dunckley, Jens Callavang, and Dennis Blocker. Absent were members of the ACCB Steve Weymiller and Dennis Koenig.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the agenda and minutes from the September 5, 2023 regular board meeting were approved with a motion by Clark and a second by Carroll with all members in favor.

There was no public comment.

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

The Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center was notified by Elite Sprinklers that a backflow valve has failed on the sprinkler system at the center. The cost for repair is estimated at \$585. A motion was made by Carroll and seconded by Clark to move forward with the repair. All in favor.

Management agreement contracts with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources were discussed. Management agreements at the Harpers Ferry Boat Landing and Shop, Nobles Island, Harpers Slough, and Heytman's Landing are set to expire on December 31, 2023. An agreement is in place with Village Creek Boat Landing through 2042. The benefits of the management agreements were discussed including the use of the shop at Harpers Ferry as well as tools and money that is available for maintenance of the areas that would not be possible without the management agreements. The Harpers Ferry location has a house that is currently used and managed by the Iowa DNR Law Enforcement Bureau, but the state is considering terminating state owned housing. The board discussed the options for the house if the state were to abandon it and the possibility of the board retaking control of the house when the state does so. Possible uses for the house were discussed including using it for possible seasonal employee living quarters and as a short-term rental.

The status of the EMC insurance recommendations was given. All recommended actions have been completed except for the marking of the curb. Several options have been discussed. Director Geerdes has arranged for a visit with Safe-Fast to get an estimate on the cost of using an adhesive reflective tape on the top of curb. Jesse Delaney also suggested contacting a service to inquire about the possibility of having the curb painted at the same time as the parking spaces.

The 2024 appointment of ACCB members was discussed. Steve Weymiller's term will expire on December 31. Weymiller has been encouraged by the staff and the board to consider reappointment to the board. If he chooses to do so his paperwork must be filed with the county auditor in December 2023. Board members are appointed to five-year terms. The county auditor will advertise for any open board positions as the terms expire and the board members will be appointed at the first Board of Supervisors meeting in January 2024.

The Director recently returned from the 2023 Iowa County Conservation System Fall Conference. It was hosted by the Pottawattamie County and Harrison County Conservation Boards. The conference included staff, board members and board of supervisors from many of the counties in Iowa. The 2024 Fall conference will be hosted by the Winneshiek and Fayette County Conservation Boards. Director Geerdes encouraged board members, staff, and the Board of Supervisors to attend to further learn about the county conservation system statewide. More information will be made available as the date gets nearer.

Informational items presented to the board included the REAP meeting being held in Calmar on October 26 from 6-8p.m. The staff has begun 2024/2025 budget work and will be communicating with the board during upcoming meetings to finalize the budget. Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area has invited the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center to join their membership. Benefits of membership include promotion in the other recognized centers, grants, and consultation on development of programs and displays.

The time and date for the next meeting was set for November 7, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center.

With no additional business the meeting was concluded at 1:46 p.m. with a motion by Clark and seconded by Carrol to adjourn. All in favor.