

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

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session September 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, Steve Weymiller 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. Absent from the Allamakee County Conservation Board was Jesse Delaney.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the agenda and minutes from the August 3, 2023 regular board meeting were approved with a motion by Koenig 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 Weymiller. All in favor.

An appraisal for the McDowell Upper Iowa property was presented to the board. The appraisal was completed by Ed Gage Appraisal Services and is being submitted to the DNR for final approval. The appraisal was requested by the Iowa DNR per terms with the Iowa Fish Habitat Grant that was used to partially fund the purchase of the property.

A resolution drafted and approved at the August meeting contingent upon approval by the county attorney prohibiting construction of private infrastructure such as docks and boat houses at ACCB owned or managed property was approved by the county attorney. The resolution shall be published and posted according to Iowa Code section 350.5.

An update on the recommendations put forth by EMC insurance during their site visit of the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center. During the site visit the representative recommended a sprinkler system inspection, painting the curb outside the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center to prevent tripping and a boaters safety course for all employees who may be operating the county boat. Geerdes informed the board that the material has been bought to complete the curb painting, staff has been completing their boaters safety courses online through the Iowa DNR website and a sprinkler inspection was complete with Elite Sprinklers. All county Department heads also attended a fleet training session with EMC insurance representatives where the importance of logging fleet maintenance records and checking to insure county employees are licensed to drive county owned vehicles was discussed.

The board was updated on the timber stand improvement project at Waterville Pines area. The spraying for invasive species has been completed and an initial bill to be paid by the Iowa DNR has been submitted by Brown Timber Services. The goal of the project is to promote the growth of existing white pine which is estimated between 125-150 years old.

In informational items and old business Director Geerdes updated the board on the Village Creek Boat Landing dock project stating it was nearly completed except for backfilling around the sidewalk area. Naturalist Erin Cubbon has been working with the Harpers Ferry Women's Auxiliary to install a life jacket loaner station at the Harpers Ferry Boat Landing. Director Geerdes will be attending the ICCS Fall

Conference in Harrison and Pottawattamie Counties September 19-22, 2023. Three separate landowners have inquired with the board on their interest for acquiring properties around the county.

The time and date for the next meeting was set for October 3, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center.

With no additional business the meeting was concluded at 1:44 p.m. with a motion by Clark and seconded by Weymiller to adjourn. All in favor.