

Allamakee County Conservation Board Minutes February , 7 2023

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session February 7, 2023 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center in Lansing, Iowa. Board members who were present were: Jesse Delaney, Jeanie Carrol, Marilyn Clark, and Steve Weymiller. Board members who were absent was Dennis Koenig. Attending from the public was Dennis Blocker and Mark Reiser. Attending from the Allamakee County Conservation Board staff was Jim Janett, Ross Geerdes, and Erin Cubbon.

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

During public comment Dennis Blocker gave an update on the Allamakee ATV/UTV Club and its efforts to purchase a property in Allamakee County for an ATV/UTV park. Blocker stated that the deal the club had been working on previously was no longer possible.

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

Updates on the dry hydrant at Volney Park were given to the Board. No representative of the Monona Fire District, where the dry hydrant would be installed, or Jordan Bacon of the Luana Fire Department were present. It was stated that Janett and Geerdes had met with the Allamakee County Supervisors, the County Engineer and Jordan Bacon about the dry hydrant installation at Volney Park. A draft of memorandum of understanding to be entered into with the ACCB and the Monona Rural Fire District was presented to the board.

The board received information on upcoming budget amendments for the FY22/23 budget. These amendments are results of money that was received from grants that were awarded to the ACCB. The grants included Iowa DNR Fish habitat grants for the Garret Streambank project and the County Home Park pond improvement project. Also included in the amendment is money received for the Red Bud Canoe Landing project and the handicapped accessible kayak launch at Village Creek Boat Landing. These grants were from the Water Recreation and Access Cost-share Program. A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Weymiller to approve the budget amendments. All were in favor.

Information and job descriptions for the two open positions at the ACCB were given to the board members. The positions are vacant from Assistant Director Jarrod Olson leaving the Conservation Board to the Sherriff's office and Naturalist Ross Geerdes moving to the Director position upon the retirement of Janett. The positions will be open beginning February 8, 2023 with a closing of March 6, 2023. The board will review applications of all candidates at the March 7, 2023 board meeting. A motion to approve the job descriptions and the timeline for hiring was made by Clark and seconded by Carrol. All were in favor.

The board was updated on the aquarium project that is being completed at the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center. Perry Novak with Novak electric has completed the installation of the electrical and the plumbing needed for the project. The area in the basement of the center is ready for installation of

the aquarium. Greg from Under the Sea, the contractor installing the aquarium has been in contact with Geerdes and all is on schedule to install the aquarium during February.

Informational items presented to the board included an update on the acquisition of the property along the Upper Iowa River. The acquisition has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. An abstract is being prepared by Palmer Abstract and a Warranty Deed is being prepared by the County Attorney. Janett has spoken with Rusty Berger regarding the molding on the limestone pillars of the Driftless Center. Berger advised to use a mild detergent that can be found at any hardware store for removing mold from rock and a pressure washer. The security system at the Driftless Center has been malfunctioning. Janett has been working with Wright Way Computers to find a solution to the problem. Corey Snitker with the Allamakee County Emergency Management installed a new panic button on the computer of the office manager. Currently the computer has to be turned on in order to use the button. Snitker is looking into options that do not need the computer to be turned on.

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

With no additional business the meeting was concluded at 2:30 p.m. with a motion by Clark and seconded by Carrol to adjourn. All in favor.