

## **Allamakee County Conservation Board Minutes May 2024**

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session May 7, 2024 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center in Lansing, Iowa. Board members who were present were: Jeanie Carroll, Jesse Delaney, Steve Weymiller, Marilyn Clark and Dennis Koenig. Attending from the Allamakee County Conservation Board staff was Ross Geerdes, Emma Jacobs and Brody VanderKolk Present from the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors was Mark Reiser and from the public was Tom Clark. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the day's agenda and minutes from the April 2, 2024 regular board meeting were approved with a motion by Carroll and a second by Koenig with all members in favor.

During public comment Tom Clark introduced himself to the board and stated he was running for the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors in the 2024 election.

The board reviewed and approved the claims with a motion by Weymiller and second by Carroll. All in favor.

Director Geerdes gave an update on the geothermal system at the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center. He stated that all has been running normal, with less demand on the system with the favorable Spring temperatures. Geerdes noted that the ACCB is on the schedule for a budget amendment for the geothermal system, but will not need it as they are currently running under budget for the FY 23/24.

The meeting moved to discussion on the renewal of the DNR management agreements. Director Geerdes met with representatives from the DNR on April 23 at the Harpers Ferry house. Director Geerdes spoke to the DNR on the history of the house being used by the DNR and the Conservation Board in partnership. Geerdes also made clear that the water and the sewer lines for the shop used by the ACCB goes through the house and if the house is sold or demolished the lines would need to be redone. Geerdes asked the DNR to reclassify the house from a residence to a storage and meeting space used by the DNR. Staff from the DNR that was present complimented the ACCB and the DNR for working together to use the house to its optimum capacity benefiting multiple public agencies and bureaus in the DNR. The DNR would continue to work to reclassify the house to a storage and meeting facility. A motion was made by Koenig and second motion was made by Clark to table signing the Harpers Ferry Management agreements until a final decision was made on the house. All in Favor.

The board reviewed the offer from Torkelson Motors for a 2024 Dodge Ram 1500 and whether to accept the trade in offered or the truck should be put out for sealed bid. The trade in value from Torkelson Motors for the 2013 Dodge Ram 1500 was \$4,400. A motion was made by Carroll to put the 2013 Dodge Ram 1500 out to the public for sealed bid. The bids would be due back July 1 and opened at the July 2 regular board meeting. A second was made by Clark. All in favor.

Director Geerdes asked the board to consider hiring Gary Krapfl for seasonal part time help at the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center. Krapfl works an estimated 8-12 hours a week when staff is conducting field trips or cannot be at the desk. A motion was made by Clark to hire Gary Krapfl for \$13.00 per hour to work at the Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center. A second was made by Weymiller. All in favor.

In informational items and old business Director Geerdes notified the board a memorial at Stonebrooke Park had been vandalized and staff was working with the Horns family to reconstruct the memorial. The

auditor office notified the Director of an unemployment claim by a seasonal worker. After investigation it was found that the State had made an error and the claim was for the seasonal workers cousin with the same initials. A hearing to appeal the claim has been scheduled for May 9. Jim Kerndt has given verbal notice that he is going to change the easement the ACCB has for use of trails on his property. Mr. Kerndt will give written notice 30 days prior to the changes. The staff gave field updates on Spring activities.

The time and date for the next meeting was set for June 4, 2024 at 1 p.m. in the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center.

With no additional business the meeting was concluded at 1:40 p.m. with a motion by Clark and seconded by Koenig to adjourn. All in favor.