

## January 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday January 7, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig and Bill Moody. Attending from the public was Bruce Palmborg. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

Under public comment time Bruce Palmborg provided updates to the Board on upcoming Lansing Main Street Social Media Training that is open to the public.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed comparisons of state-wide salaries and the five county conservation department salaries. The Board also viewed a percentage of salary increase for each position. No decisions were made regarding salaries and would be discussed again after the Supervisors review all other County Department Budgets.

Upcoming programs and activity items were presented and discussed by the Board.

Informational items discussed by the Board included progress on the Francis Garrett Property, gift shop inventory items, the recent Statewide REAP Congress, Iowa County Conservation System (ICCS) state wide employee training being held 01/28-30/20 in Iowa City, upcoming Mississippi River Parkway Commission meetings, and recent Allamakee County Conservation Foundations donations totaling \$3,500.00

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 4, 2020 in the Board Office. The Board will host a reception honoring Conservation Board Member Bill Moody's thirty one years of service to the Allamakee County Conservation Board.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Delaney to adjourn the meeting, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

## February 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday February 4, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig and Bill Moody. Also attending was newly appointed Conservation Board Member Steve Weymiller and Board of Supervisor Dan Byrnes. Attending from the public was Dennis Blocker, Bruce Palmborg and Paul Melsha Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Moody, second Delaney, all in favor, motion carried. Salaries for the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget were discussed by the Board. The Director conveyed to the Conservation Board the Board of Supervisors approved a 3% salary increase, any other additional increases would have to be lowered from the Conservation Board budget. A motion was made by Moody to approve an additional 2% raise for Conservation Board staff for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget, second Delaney, all in favor, motion carried.

Newly appointed Conservation Board Member Steve Weymiller was welcomed to the Board and was given a brief orientation to the Board.

Election of officers for the Conservation Board were discussed by the Board. A motion was made by Koenig to have the current Chairperson Jeanie Carroll and current Vice Chairperson Marylyn Clark remain the same for the next year, second Delaney, all in favor, motion carried.

Bill Moody reflected on his 31 years of serving on the County Conservation Board. Moody did inquire about use of ATV's on public lands, the item will be placed on the March 2020 Agenda.

Upcoming programs and activity items were presented and discussed by the Board. The Ice Harvest scheduled for last weekend was canceled due to poor ice conditions. Other upcoming programs included the Harpers Ferry Youth Ice Fishing program and Fly Tying at the Ed. Center.

Informational items discussed by the Board included Historical Society activities, snow plowing requests at Stone Brook Park, process report on dredging Village Creek Boat Landing, Francis Garrett land donation progress, construction projects to be completed during the upcoming season, and REAP Congress and IWILL funding updates.

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday March 3, 2020 in the Board Office.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Delaney to adjourn the meeting, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

## March 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday March 3, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig and Steve Weymiller. Attending from the public was Dennis Blocker. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The Director informed the Board a FEMA Check had been received for \$51,003.47 which covers the Federal share for Disaster# 4421. Upon completion of the damage repair work the State of Iowa will issue the additional 15%. Information on current obligated contractor work and work the Board will receive price quotas on were discussed by the Board.

The Board discussed the possibilities of submitting grants through the National Scenic Byway Grant program for constructing a pedestrian foot bridge across Village Creek. The National Scenic Byway Grant Program had been recently been reestablished and should be funded in the near future. Prior to submitting any grants for the project some preliminary engineering would need to be completed. The Director will make contacts regarding necessary design work and costs for submitting grant and report back to the Board.

The Board reviewed specifications for price quotas for FEMA construction repair projects. The locations included Waterville Farm 55 and Clear Creek Park. Both projects included stream bank shaping and placement of rip rap rock. The request for prices will be sent out area contractors. The Director advised that according to Iowa Code that the Board is required to take bids for goods and services totaling more than \$75,000.00 Other repair projects that contractors committed to complete from fall of 2019 included Ray's Landing and Kolsrud/Halverson Park.

Updates on activities and programs included full moon winter hikes, hunter education programs, school programs, and a scheduled gypsy moth program on their activity in Allamakee County.

Dennis Blocker representing the Allamakee County ATV/UTV Club provided a history of the organization's activities and their future plans. The Allamakee ATV/UTV club would like to apply for various grants to purchase and develop an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee County. Blocker asked the Board would draft a letter to support their grant writing efforts. After discuss on the request a motion was made by Delaney to draft a letter of support for the Allamakee ATV/UTV Club, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday April 7, 2020 in the Board Office.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Koenig to adjourn the meeting, second Weymiller, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

## June 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday June 2, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig and Steve Weymiller. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Weymiller, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark all in favor, motion carried. The Director informed the Board a FEMA check had been received for \$51,003.47 and deposited into the Conservation Board's Conservation Reserve Account. The FEMA check covers the Federal share for Disaster# 4421. Upon completion of the damage repair work the State of Iowa will issue the additional 15%. Information on current FEMA projects were provided to the Board. The current 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget had \$51,000.00 budgeted in the construction line item to cover the FEMA repair expenditures. FEMA work completed included Rheim Construction at Ray's Landing, Jim Hanson Construction at Waterville Farm 55 and Clear Creek Park. Szabo Construction will be completing work at the Kolsrud/Halverson Park by the end of the Fiscal Year. Once completed the State of Iowa will begin the close out process for the Disaster and will issue the 10% balance.

The Board discussed the hiring of part-time seasonal. A motion was made by Delaney to hire the following individuals at \$11.00 per hour for Brody Vander Kolk, Gary Krapfl, and Mike Whalen, second Weymiller, all in favor, all in favor, motion carried.

The Director informed the Board information had been conveyed to an IDNR representative from the Canadian Pacific Rail Road their plans were to fence off the fishing access to the public at the Power Plant Fishing Access Area. The Director clarified no direct contact to the Allamakee Conservation Board had been made by the Rail Road. The Director will keep the Board updated on any new developments.

Updated were provided to the Board regarding opening policies, procedures, and employee safety due to COVID-19 at the Driftless Center and other Conservation Board areas. The Driftless Center will open to the public June 03, 2020.

Department updates were provided to the Board and included completing the cleanup of the Quandahl Property, FEMA work completed at Ray's Landing, Clear Creek and Farm 55. Updates were also provided to the Board regarding Social Media education programming, Village Creek Boat Landing dredging and dock replacement progress, and a summary of closing and additional costs on the Garrett Land donation.

The Board left the office to travel to the recently donated Garrett Property to take a group photo for a news release on the donation. The next Board meeting will be July 07, 2020 at the Board Office. After completing the photo there was no additional items or old business and a motion was made by Weymiller to adjourn the meeting, second Delaney, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

## August 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday August 4, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig and Steve Weymiller. Attending from the public was Bruce Palmborg. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark all in favor, motion carried.

The Director updated the Board on the FEMA #4421 closing status. Work has been complete and ending paper work filed. Once the closing documents are approved the remaining payment balance will be issued.

Submitting an Iowa Fish Habitat Grant for the recently donated Garrett Property was discussed by the Board. The scope of work to be completed has yet to be determined, the Director estimated the combined access improvement and stream bank work would range between 35,000.00-40,000.00. A motion was made by Delaney to approve submitting a Fish Habitat Grant, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed prices submitted for completing a sidewalk at the Halverson/Kolsrud Park. Two prices were submitted for the project: Kelly Concrete for \$4,985.00, Meyer Concrete for \$4,675.00. A motion was made by Koenig to approve the price submitted by Meyer for \$4,675.00, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

COVID 19 procedures at the Driftless Center were discussed by the Board. No significant changes have been made at the Driftless Center. The Board will monitor State of Iowa guidance and make any necessary changes. Providing educational opportunities during COVID 19 was discussed by the Board. Conducting environmental education programs for the general public as well as school groups was discussed. The Board discussed the purchase of a Swivl recording device for \$800.00 that allows for preparing virtual education programs that will be used in schools and placed on various social media platforms. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Clark, second Weymiller, all in favor, motion carried.

Informational items discussed by the Board included signage at Halverson/Kolsrud Park, donated benches, signage for the Visitor Center, improvement progress at Village Creek Boat Landing, information kiosk repair, and purchasing a sun shade for the Driftless Center. Other items discussed included the placement of adds in The Big River Magazine, and Driftless Journal.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday September 1, 2020. The Board discussed timing for Board Members to conduct a fall field day to view areas. Board members indicated September

would work better for a field day. The September Board meeting will be a field day to view areas. The Director will coordinate the meeting details and include them in the September Board mailing.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Koenig to adjourn the meeting, second Delaney, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P.M.



## September 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 12:45 P.M. Tuesday September 1, 2020 at the Stone Brook Park located at 589 Yellow River Drive Postville, Iowa. The Board conducted a field day to view areas. The field schedule is as follows:

11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Board Members may attend an optional lunch at the Old Rossville Store.

12:30 P.M.-12:45 P.M. Board will travel from Rossville to Stone Brook Park.

12:45 P.M.-01:30 P.M. Board will conduct business meeting at Stone Brook Shelter house and view Park.

01:30 P.M.-01:45 P.M. Board will travel to Volney Park located at 1262 James Road Volney, Iowa.

01:45 P.M.-02:15 P.M. Board will view Volney Park.

02:15 P.M.-02:30 P.M. Board will travel to Halverson/Kolsrud Park located at 1044 Waterville Road.

02:30 P.M.-03:00 P.M. Board will view Halverson/Kolsrud Park and will adjourn the meeting.

Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Dennis Koenig and Steve Weymiller. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Weymiller, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Koenig, second Clark all in favor, motion carried. The Director informed the Board a check had been received from the State of Iowa for the balance of FEMA Disaster #4421 totaling \$3,769.15

COVID 19 procedures at the Driftless Center were discussed by the Board. No significant changes have been made at the Driftless Center. The Board will monitor State of Iowa guidance and make any necessary changes.

Department operations updates were provided to the Board and included the following: planning for Garrett Property improvements, pouring concrete pads for donation bench's at the Driftless Center, setting the fishing float at Harpers Ferry, Clear Creek barrier stones set, water pump issues at Harpers Ferry Bluffview, and stone steps to be placed at Kumpf's Canoe Access. Other items included mechanical issues with the rest rooms at New Albin Park and Village Creek Boat Landing improvement status.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Clark to adjourn the meeting, second Weymiller, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

## October 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday October 6, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, and Jesse Delaney. Attending from the public was Bruce Palmborg, Jens Kallevang, Dennis Blocker, Jane Regan, Gary Krapfl, and Dave Duncklee. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, James Janett and Jarrod Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark all in favor, motion carried.

The Director provided information regarding Secondary Roads Department replacing bridges on the Yellow River on Livingood Spring Drive and on Smithfield Rd. The County Engineer had discussed the possibility of incorporating off road parking and access to the Yellow River at these locations. The Conservation Board would be responsible for maintaining the access area. The Director will keep the Board informed on these locations as planning on the bridge replacements moves forward.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding the Allamakee County Historical Society plans for taking management of the Vet's Club in Waukon and merging some of the military displays from the Old Courthouse Museum into the Vet's Club along other military artifacts that are in the process of being donated to the Historical Society. Other changes may include relocating the genealogy area into the Vet's Club building. The Historical Society is in the process of retaining consultant's for both architectural and interpretive display services.

COVID 19 procedures and recent record exposer rates were discussed by the Board. No significant changes have been made at the Driftless Center to this point. The Director voiced concerns for possible staff exposer due to the number of visitors. The Board discussed the status of other similar County, State, and Federal facilities. The Director informed the Board the majority of facilities were closed or open by appointment. The voluntary use of masks was discussed by the Board. Staff agreed that voluntary mask usage was approximately 95%. After discussion regarding the usage of masks the Board instructed the Director to implement mandatory mask usage. If there are issues from the public regarding mandatory mask usage the Board will consider temporary closure of the Driftless Center. The Board will continue to monitor State of Iowa guidance and make any necessary changes. The Board will also closely monitor area schools and will follow their closure policies.

Informational items discussed by the Board included completing the sidewalk project at Halverson/Kolsrud Park, donated benches at the Driftless Center and Harpers Ferry Landing, permit status on Village Creek Boat Landing dredging project, FEMA small projects being closed, local Fire Department UTV rides, REAP Certification being completed and filed, and the

upcoming annual audit. Other informational items discussed included recent hiking trail development in the Lansing area and possible future trail development. The Director will place the item on a future agenda.

The next board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday November 3, 2020.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Koenig to adjourn the meeting, second Delaney, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

## November 2020 Minutes of the Allamakee County Conservation Board

The Allamakee County Conservation Board met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday November 17, 2020 in the Board Office located at 1944 Columbus Rd. Lansing, Iowa. The regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month had been moved due to Board Member scheduling conflicts. Board members present were as follows: Jeanie Carroll, Marilyn Clark, Jesse Delaney, Dennis Koenig, and Steve Weymiller. Attending from the public was Bruce Palmborg and Dennis Blocker. Also attending were Conservation Board staff members Erin Cubbon, Ross Geerdes, and James Janett.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. and minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried.

Claims, revenues, and fiscal year budget summaries were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Delaney, second Koenig, all in favor, motion carried.

Dennis Blocker representing the Allamakee County ATV/UTV Club discussed a number of items with the Board. Items included information on an upcoming meeting being held on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> at Lid's Restaurant in Waukon, Iowa. A number of groups and organizations had been invited to the meeting to discuss the development of an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee County. Blocker wasn't sure the role the Allamakee County Conservation Board would play in the development of a park but would know more after the meeting. Blocker will keep the Board informed of the development of an ATV/UTV Park in Allamakee County and possible Board involvement.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding the Allamakee County Historical Society plans for taking management of the Vet's Club in Waukon. There is merging of the military displays from the Old Courthouse Museum into the Vet's Club along with other military artifacts that are in the process of being donated to the Historical Society. Other changes may include relocating the genealogy area into the Vet's Club building. The Historical Society is in the process of retaining consultant's for both architectural and interpretive display services for the Vet's Club Building.

COVID 19 procedures and recent record exposer rates were discussed by the Board. The Director voiced concerns for possible staff exposer due to the number of visitors. The Board discussed the status of other similar County, State, and Federal facilities. The Director informed the Board the majority of facilities were closed or open by appointment. After discussion of National, Regional, and Local COVID 19 infection rates the Board supported the Directors request to shut down the Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center until after the Holiday Season.

The Director provided information to the Board regarding ownership of right-of-way along White Pine Drive at the Waterville Farm 55. Secondary Roads had researched ownership of a small narrow strip on the property that a former rail road line occupied. The area in question would include the entrance to Waterville Farm 55. The Director noted there had not been any

request for an easement into the Park. The Board would like the Director to start the process of having an easement drafted for the entrance to Waterville Farm 55 so it doesn't become an issue in the future.

The Director informed the Board he had been contacted by a company that monitors barge traffic on the river, they were interested in placing an antenna on the Driftless Center. The Center would in turn would have free access to their website. No action was taken on the proposal and the Director will keep the Board informed.

Updates were provided to the Board regarding public input about the possibility of the Board purchasing some property on the Upper Iowa River for a canoe access off Rosebud Drive. The Director informed the Board he had been in contact with landowners and they were receptive to selling some area for a possible canoe access. The Board would like the Director to follow up with the landowners to obtain the amount of area needed, possible purchase cost, and development cost. The Director informed the Board should the project move forward there would be some grant opportunities to cost share the project.

Informational items discussed by the Board included completing and submitting the Fish Habitat Grant, Board viewing of Army Corps of Engineers public information displays at the office on the Conway Lake Island Restoration Project, trees recently donated to the Board from Dubuque County Conservation Board. Other informational items included fencing that had been completed on the Bear Creek Property near Quandahl, closing of facilities for the winter season, and updated on the dredging and new docks at Village Creek Boat Landing. The Director informed the Board he had been contacted by a landowner along Upper Iowa Drive regarding the preservation of a possible archeological site on his property.

The next board meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday December 1, 2020.

There being no additional business a motion was made by Koenig to adjourn the meeting, second Clark, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.