



# Newsletter

Volume 62  
Issue No. 7  
January 29, 2021

## 99 WEEKS / 99 COUNTIES is ROCKIN' IT!

### SAVE THE DATES:

The ICCS Calendar & Zoom Meeting Room Bookings are available online via



- \* Feb. 11 – Dist. 2 Meeting – ICCS Zoom Room
- \* Feb. 18 – E-Commerce Summit (MCP) – Virtual
- \* Feb. 23 – Winterfest Planning Mtg. – Zoom
- \* Feb. 25 – Dist. 4 Meeting – ICCS Zoom Room
- \* Mar. 3 – AFIRM Mtg.
- \* Mar. 11 – CCDA / ISAC Spring Conf. - Virtual
- \* Mar. 17-19 – IAN Spring Workshop - Virtual
- \* Mar. 31 – Deadline for CCPOA Training 2B Done
- \* Aug. 25-27 – ISAC Annual Conference – TBA
- \* Oct. 4-6 – CCPOA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Wksp. & Anniv.
- \* Jan. 25-27, 2022 – The WINTERFEST 2022!!

Indicates Online Registration Available

**2021 ICCS**  
65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary +1  
Fall Conference  
September 15-17, 2021  
Ames, IA



### JANUARY 2021 - 99 WEEKS / 99 COUNTIES SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTION

POST	TYPE	REACH	ENGAGE	LIKES	SHARES
12/31/20	PROMO	22,115	1,521	101	121
01/03/21	PROMO	24,045	1,746	167	139
01/12/21	PROMO	5,049	267	65	40
1/17/21	BENTON	11,984	1,214	129	68
1/24/21	B. HAWK	7,778	843	65	39
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>70,971</b>	<b>5,591</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>407</b>

At least we have 2021 off to a great start on one front! Our 99-Week sprint through 99-Counties is already showing us some great numbers – and next week we will kicking Week #3 into the spotlight!! It's rockin' because YOU are making it happen – week following week.

Keep an eye out for the weekly posts to appear each Sunday/Monday on our [MyCountyParks.com Facebook page](#) – then be sure to share it on your CCB's F.B. page(s) as well as on your personal page(s)...collectively, it will be smashing!! We will launch into February next week – continuing our tours of the "Original 16" CCBs from 1956, starting with Buchanan CCB, followed by Butler (2/8), Chickasaw (2/15), and Dubuque (2/22). CCBs are invited to submit current awesome pictures they wish to share, as well as any brief narrative to blend into the posts. 97 Weeks to Go!! 😊

## IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2021

The 2021 Iowa General Assembly has convened, as has our bi-weekly **ICCS Legislative Newsletter**. The newsletter is produced by our ICCS/INHF Lobbyist team – with the first edition arriving to your inboxes this past weekend. We have already discovered that things will be happening quickly – sometimes with very little notice. It is challenging to connect with legislators in-person as we have in the past - due to the safe virtual nature (and rightfully so) of so many aspects of this session. So, we are relying heavily on our lobbyists and other relationships we have worked hard to establish.

2021 bills already introduced include proposals to modify **the Bottle Bill** as well as the **Forest Reserve Law**. Both of these have Senate Subcommittee meetings next week – let me know if you would like a Zoom link to attend!

I encourage any of you with an interest in following specific legislation to engage with the "Bill Tracker" feature provided in our Legislative Newsletter. It is updated daily, and provides you with a list of bills that we are monitoring. ICCS has currently registered "Against" any legislation that eliminates the Bottle Bill, but "Undecided" on those that modify. (continued.....)

## IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2021 (continued)

ICCS has also registered as “Undecided” concerning the Forest Reserve Law. This **Undecided** registration on bills informs the legislators/committees who are working with particular legislative proposals that, ICCS is monitoring the progress of the bill – but in the bill’s present form, we are neither IN FAVOR or AGAINST it. You can view all the organizations/entities that have registered on various bills on the Iowa Legislature Website via the following link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation>

FYI – there are NO IN-PERSON legislative “Days at the Capitol” scheduled at this time....though various organizations are orchestrating virtual days as such – with speakers, etc. One virtual event that is on the calendar at this time is being organized by the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) on February 25<sup>th</sup> – “Environmental Advocacy Day” – for more information: <https://www.iaenvironment.org/get-involved/council-events/2021-environmental-advocacy-day>

## CCPOA LAUNCHES VIRTUAL SPRING IN-SERVICE TRAINING TO MEET MANDATED REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020



Our **CCPOA Division** was very pleased to launch their virtual Spring Training opportunities yesterday via email communication to their 165+ membership in 63 counties. For the most part, 100% of CCB Peace Officers have been “in-sync” with mandated training requirements – literally for decades, via CCPOA-sponsored fall and spring training workshops. COVID tossed a pretty big wrench into this networked training, and efforts to put together virtual opportunities to satisfy all requirements commenced shortly after the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Fall Workshop last October.

The opportunities outlined to members yesterday will allow each officer to maintain their continuing law enforcement certification by completing numerous online modules to meet 2020 mandated requirements. This will get their training all current for 2020 – CCPOA will then pick-up with the 2021 in-service regimen at the **October 4-6, 2021 Annual Workshop** at Camp Dodge. **ONE IMPORTANT NOTE** – If the CCB Peace Officer is a CCPOA Member, they are being asked to register & provide documentation in the system **REGARDLESS** of how or where they received/receive their required mandated training for 2020. For 35+ years, the CCPOA has logged and documented all member officer’s training hours as provided by the CCPOA – this year (2020) it is also essential to document member officers that received mandated training outside of the organization. They appreciate every officer’s attention to this documentation process. **By March 17<sup>th</sup> – 100% of the 165+ CCPOA Members should be INDIVIDUALLY registered in this system.**

To initiate access to this process, CCPOA members were instructed to go to the **ICCS Online Registration System** at the following link, and click on the “**CCPOA In-Service Training**” selection:

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/Default.aspx>

## I.A.C.C.B.E. ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CHANGES, ELECTIONS & WINTERFEST 2022 PLANNING TO COMMENCE



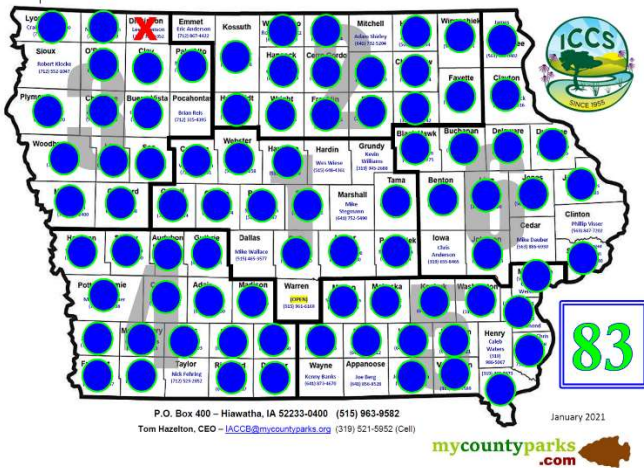
Per protocols as established in the bylaws of the IACCBE Division, IACCBE Vice President **Brent Hansen** (Polk) has assumed the position as President of IACCBE effective earlier this month. The leadership vacancy was created due to the departure of the previous President from the CCB system. In a Jan. 22 memo to the IACCBE Executive Committee, Hansen announced the change, as well as pinpointing February 23<sup>rd</sup> for a re-organizational meeting (on Zoom) for the **2022 Winterfest Planning Committee**. The IACCBE will also be holding regular annual elections in



February. Positions on the Ballot that need to be filled will be for **Vice President of IACCBE**, and **IACCBE Representative to the ICCS Board of Directors**. The **IACCBE Executive Committee** has been recruiting candidates for several weeks – with at least one on board for each position - Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> will be the final day for any additional nominations to be submitted. If you are aware of any interested candidates – please forward their contact information to IACCBE Secretary **Joni Hefley** (Webster) at: [jhefley@webstercountyia.org](mailto:jhefley@webstercountyia.org)

**IACCBE’s WINTERFEST 2022 is on-tap for January 25-27, 2022 at the Marriott Conference Center in Coralville** – mark your calendars! The Winterfest Planning Committee will begin regular planning meetings in March with the optimism that a year from now - we will be able to assemble and network together once again! Look forward to additional communications from IACCBE in the weeks ahead, as well as a statewide electronic ballot that will be distributed via email for voting on your new 2021 IACCBE officers as referenced above. We are looking forward to a renewed and exciting year of surging ahead, as well as hosting you to a great Winterfest 2022! Take care all! 😊

## 2021 "ALL THINGS CAMPING" SURVEY



## CAMPING SURVEY DUE ON MONDAY!

The "All Things Camping Survey" was distributed to all CCB Directors in early January with a completion deadline on Monday, February 1st. To-date, we have received an awesome 83 responses from across the state – and are optimistic that we will hear from the remaining 16 CCBs over the next 3 days!? Should your county need a replacement link to the survey, please be in touch with ICCS at [IACCB@mycountyparks.org](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.org).

Once compiled, the results from this survey will be provided to ALL CCBs, and the data generated can be analyzed and utilized in our collective marketing efforts, education of legislators, shared with our Tourism partners, etc. It should also be of great assistance to each CCB in comparing their camping operations with that of similar budget-sized counties, cash flow operations, and much more. We look forward to hearing from you 16 soon! 😊

## 8th Annual E-Commerce Summit!

Thursday, February 18th in the ICCS Zoom Room – 9:00 AM start time!

Like many other workshops and conferences – we had hoped to be able to gather in person for this annual event last fall.....'twas not to be. The MyCountyParks.com Advisory Committee has met a couple of times - and assembled a package of the next best thing – a day's worth of various updates and educational opportunities to pick and choose from! The sessions will adhere to a rigid time schedule for the day, allowing participants to drop in and out of those with particular interest to them. We are already pleased to have 42 registrants from 24 CCBs on board for this event! These sessions will not be of an orientation type, more in-depth and perhaps technical in nature for some of them.....session descriptions are included on the registration webpage link below. Staff that may be interested in a more basic orientation to the administration of the website would find the March 4th training opportunity listed below more to their liking? Either one you choose we look forward to sharing our award-winning website with you! For additional information and to initiate your registration – please go here:

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://www.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/Default.aspx>

**2020 E-COMMERCE SUMMIT**  
VIRTUAL LOCATION: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ICCS Zoom Meeting Room Online  
Online Registration @ [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)  
(Guest Meeting Link will be sent to all registered participants)  
QUESTIONS: [IACCB@mycountyparks.org](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.org)

The MyCountyParks.com Advisory Committee invites you to join them for the 8th Annual E-Commerce Summit (Guest Meeting Link will be sent to all registered participants).  
QUESTIONS: [IACCB@mycountyparks.org](mailto:IACCB@mycountyparks.org)

**TENTATIVE SUMMIT SESSION SCHEDULE:**

- 8:30 AM Morning Refreshments Available Wherever YOU Are!
- 9:00 AM **ICCS ONLINE SYSTEMS UPDATES**  
Tom Hazelton, Systems Administrator
- 10:15 AM **NEW CCBs ON-BOARDING TO MCP.com**  
Tom Hazelton, ICCS CEO
- 11:15 AM **FACILITY CONSTRUCTION – Nuts & Bolts**  
Mike Kalkwarf, Marion CCB
- 12:15 PM **BREAK FOR CONSUMABLES**
- 12:45 PM **EVENTS CONSTRUCTION & USE**  
Nicolite Koelling & Katie Kius, Black Hawk CCB
- 1:45 PM **UNDER-USED FEATURES – Discounts, Shortcuts, etc.**  
Ginny Malcolmson, Polk CCB
- 2:30 PM **ESSENTIALS OF INSTALLING ACTIVITIES**  
Tom Hazelton, ICCS, MCP.com
- 3:00 PM **SUMMIT CESSATION**

ICCS and the MCP.com Advisory Committee encourages ALL counties currently providing Online Reservations or Registrations to attend this meeting. Additionally, CCBs that are considering the possibility of providing online reservation services in the future are encouraged to attend. This website has undergone numerous renovations & improvements throughout 2020 & continuing in 2021 – each designed to enhance the experience for both customers & administrators! By the end of 2021 we will have 41 CCBs engaged with online reservations...an excellent time for everyone to get on board!

**ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:**  
<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/2021-E-COMMERCE-VIRTUAL-SUMMIT.aspx>

## "MyCountyParks.com 101" – Just the Virtual Basics, Sir! 😊

Thursday, March 4th – 9:00 AM – Noon MCP.com?, "The Portal"?, MCP.org?, E-Commerce?, Online Reservations? may all be a bit foreign to you? But alas, you now find yourself "doing battle" with the website beast! System Administrator Tom Hazelton still has the original pencil scratches from visioning work for the website in 2006 - join him for an orientation of all the functionalities that have evolved these past 15 years and how they should play in to your county's local operations and marketing. Whether you are new to county conservation, or in need of a refresher - this basic orientation to managing our website is essential to have in your toolbox! This will be a great orientation program for those of you new to the website. Registered participants will receive the Zoom Link a few days in advance of the event. (**NOTE:** This MCP Orientation program is usually presented at Winterfest - registration coming soon!)

Interactive Guide Contact Us Cart My Account

[mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

## ICCS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GUIDE OFFLINE

One more technical announcement - As of a couple of weeks ago – the digital online version of our popular County Conservation System Guide to Outdoor Adventure is offline. This is in-part due to the demise of Adobe Flash Player (which also impacted pieces of MCP), but primarily because we need to invest in new online page-turning, book-reading software that will integrate with our website platform. This feature has operated flawlessly on our website since installation in 2013 – our 7-year license has also expired. Uniquely, we have already had discussions of what this will look like in the future – perhaps interacting with DNR mapping and nearby Iowa Tourism sites in proximity to site searches on MyCountyParks? Technology has changed immensely since our last re-think of this CCB classic – with previous versions dating all the way back to the mid-1960s! Our initial mission will be to get "what-is" back online, and then tackle the "what-if-we-do-this?" concepts....stay tuned..... 😊

Iowa's County Conservation System Guide to  
**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**

(515) 963-9592 - 1,837 acres - 193,624 acres - 10,500 campsites - 1,536 miles of trails

The essential guidebook to Iowa's county park system

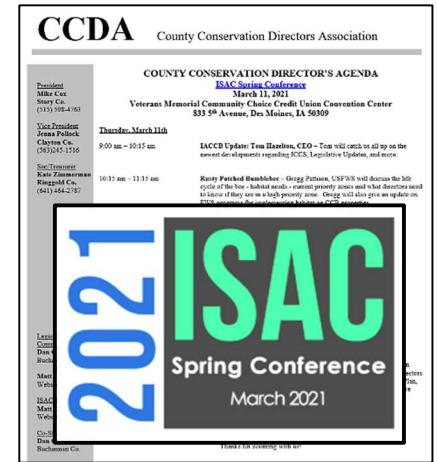
# VIRTUAL SPRING ISAC & CCDA MEETINGS

## March 11<sup>th</sup> – ISAC Zoom Meeting Space Online

The **County Conservation Director's Association (CCDA)** will assemble as part of the virtual Spring ISAC Conference in early March. The one-day agenda was circulated to CCB Directors this past week – Zoom meeting links and other meeting information will be available in advance of the meeting.

The ISAC website yields that registration & costs for the spring meetings has yet to be set, but should be available soon – more information available via the link below. Additionally – it looks as though they will be hosting a Virtual County Day at the Capitol on February 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 AM. Not sure how ICCS or CCBs may be able to fit into any programming there – but will keep our ear to the ground.

**LINK:** <https://www.iowacounties.org/isac-spring-conference/>



## NEW PREFERRED VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

### FEMA HAVE YOU BAFFLED?

**EOR Iowa** is currently assisting the Buena Vista County Conservation Board navigate the complex rules and procedures of a FEMA disaster reimbursement project, the replacement/modification of the Linn Grove Dam, which was severely damaged by flooding on the Little Sioux River in 2018 and 2019. EOR has extensive experience with FEMA disaster projects ranging from project management and negotiation, performing environmental studies, planning, designing, letting, and constructing complex water resource projects, including dam removals. We excel at coordinating with various state and federal agencies to negotiate funding, scheduling, and completing the work on behalf of you - our clients. Need more information? - please contact **Kevin Griggs** at (515) 230-7044 or [kgriggs@eorinc.com](mailto:kgriggs@eorinc.com)



## JUST A LITTLE TOUCH OF I.P.E.R.S. 😊

In their **Annual Summary Report for 2020** this past month, IPERS notes that their "AVERAGE RETIREE" is 61 years old at retirement age, receives an annual benefit of \$17,868 and has had 23 years of service. In 2020, the total benefits paid by IPERS to retirees was \$2.3B, \$2B of which was to retirees living in Iowa alone. The funded ratio for the IPERS System (assets divided by liabilities) is at 83.96%. 80+% is indicative of a strong and secure pension fund. In FY2020, employer and employee contributions totaled \$1.328B, while total member benefits paid totaled \$2.319B – this shortfall was funded with earnings & proceeds from the investment portfolio. Learn more about your retirement from IPERS at [www.ipers.org](http://www.ipers.org)



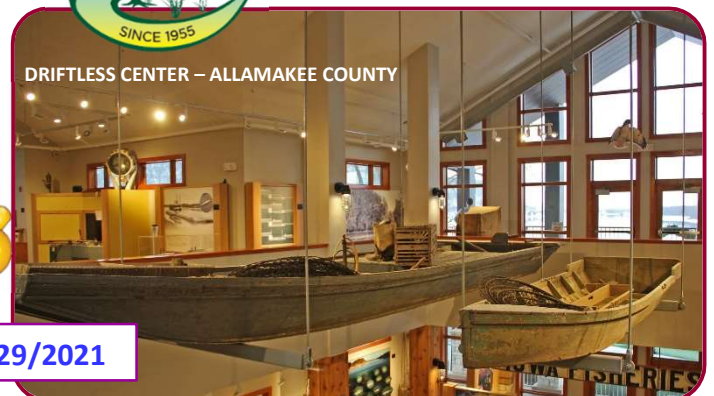
*"You don't need to practice social distancing from Mother Nature: Enjoy Iowa's County Parks!"*



- Full Time
- Seasonal/Part-Time

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>

1. CLAY Co. – Park Ranger
2. STORY Co. – Administrative Assistant II
3. RINGGOLD Co. – Nat. Resource Technician
4. POLK Co. - Construction Technician
5. TAMA Co. – Director
6. ADAMS Co. – Maintenance Technician
7. CRAWFORD Co. – Park Technician
8. POLK Co. – Conservation Laborer II
9. POLK Co. – Conservation Laborer I
10. SEASONAL POSITIONS – 80+ opportunities listed on website



1/29/2021