



MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

Prohibiting Members of Boards of Supervisors from Serving as Members of County Conservation Boards

The Iowa Chapter supports prohibiting members of the Board of Supervisors from serving as members of County Conservation Boards. We believe a Supervisor serving as a Conservation Board member can be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Managing the county parks and recreation areas is the role of the conservation board. The conservation board is not allowed to sell its assets, but can pass a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors asking for approval to sell the assets. This affects the sale of public land, the sale of trees and transferring public land to the Iowa Department of Transportation for roads.

Supervisors then vote for sale of the property.

Supervisors receive monetary compensation for serving on the Board of Supervisors while Conservation Board Members donate their time to serve on the board. Supervisors are elected to the Board of Supervisors while the Conservation Board members are appointed by the Supervisors.

A Supervisor sitting as a member of the Conservation Board can unduly influence the Conservation Board and its staff regarding the sale of public assets. It is tempting for supervisors to sell Conservation assets in order to fill strained county budgets. If Supervisors sit on the Conservation Board, they get two bites of the apple (two votes) to approve the sale of Conservation Board assets.

Since the Conservation Board is responsible for performing the annual performance review of the Director of the Conservation Board, having a member of the Board of Supervisors perform the review places undue political influence over the Conservation Board.

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