

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, May 13th, 2024
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)

Call to Order:

John Henscheid called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call:

Marsha Parker, Beth Doggett, Jeff Layton, John Henscheid, and Aaron Ruff

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Amanda Jones, Sara Runyan, Mike McCall, Cari Nicely, and Paul Totten

Approval of Agenda:

Aaron moved to approve the agenda, Marsha seconded, approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Jeff moved to approve the previous monthly meeting minutes, Beth seconded, approved.

Guests:

Darren Batterson

Claims:

- WCCB claims for the month of April were submitted for approval.

Aaron moved to approve the WCCB claims for the month of April, Jeff seconded, approved.

- The American Gothic House Center (AGHC) claims for the month of April were submitted for approval.

Marsha moved to approve the AGHC claims for the month of April, Aaron seconded, approved.

Old Business:

- **Habitat Grant for Garrison Rock Property**

Rick has been in contact with the land owner interested in selling. The land owner has inquired about selling just 7 acres for \$20k. Rick will keep the board informed as things progress.

- **Pond Dam at Pioneer Ridge**

Contractors have been asked for bids to fix the bond dam and one bid has been received. The board talked about possibly using the trust fund to pay for the fixes.

New Business:

- **Ragbrai/ Eddyville Dunes**

An Eddyville citizen has been in touch with staff about promoting Eddyville Dunes during RAGBRAI. Staff and board discussed RAGBRAI, visitors to be expected, and possible impact of bikes at the sand prairie. Rick volunteer to sit at the sand prairie and talk with visitors.

- **National Turkey Federation Sponsorship**

The Wapello county chapter of the National Turkey Federation asked for a sponsorship. Marsha moved to give a \$300 sponsorship, Jeff seconded, approved.

- **Placer AI membership**

Placer AI gave a presentation to the board via Zoom. They talked about their company and what they could offer the department. The company harvests data from cell phone locations that is useful for grants and advertising.

- **ICCS Membership**

The membership bill for ICCS was received and is \$2,000. Marsha moved to approve the ICCS membership for \$2,000. Jeff seconded, approved.

- **Approve Contract with Fairfield Precast**

Rick reviewed the contract with Fairfield Precast Concrete for septic work and improvements needed. Aaron moved to approve the contract and improvements, Jeff seconded, approved.

- **Return of Indigenous Peoples Display**

The state passed new legislation and has to collect some of indigenous people's display at the nature center. The staff is in contact with the state to return the whole display and create a new one in its place.

American Gothic Board Updates:

Cari gave the board an update about the AGHC including; RAGBRAI, vending machines, the 5k race, and the possible grant from Zach Nunn's office.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Rick informed the board that the Iowa Outdoors magazine is highlighting PRNC in its nature center edition.

Conservation Board Comments:

Discussion was had over the campground groundbreaking ceremony, the pioneer ridge sign, bluebird boxes, pergola, and hummingbird garden.

Adjournment:

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting, Beth seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:36PM.