

**Wapello County Conservation Board**  
**Regular Meeting Notice**  
**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**5:30 PM Meeting**  
**Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)**

**Call to Order:**

Beth Doggett called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Staff Present:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Guests:**

Darren Batterson, Terry Dvorak(Zoom)

**Claims:**

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

Discussion was had about where the bills for the expansion would be coming from and whether or not they were part of the general budget. The director informed the board that there is a separate line item that the grant bills are coded as.

Marsha moved to approve the WCCB claims for the month of November, Aaron seconded, approved.

- The American Gothic House Center claims for the month of November were submitted for approval.

Aaron moved to approve the AGHC claims for the month of November, John seconded, approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Solar Energy for the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center**

The board will discuss the different options for solar energy at the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center and make a decision at a later date.

**New Business:**

- **Solar Energy Presentation by Terry Dvorak (Red Lion)**

Terry Dvorak presented a solar energy option for the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center on behalf of Red Lion. They discussed where the equipment would be, expected output, cost, grants available, and different purchasing options.

If WCCB were to move forward Red Lion would pursue the March round of the USDA grants. Ideally a decision would need to be made by mid-January.

- **Pioneer Ridge Campground Expansion Schedule**

The director presented the board with a schedule of upcoming meetings involving the campground. These meetings will discuss expenditures and must be advertised to the public. A roll call vote will take place. Most of the meetings will be taking place in January and February.

- **Approve Facility Contracts for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year**

The board reviewed the facility contracts for the Red Haybarn Shelter, Eddyville Sand Prairie Shelter, Bur Oak Cabin, White Oak Cabin, Goldfinch Cabin, and Bluebird Cabin. Jeff moved to approve the facility contracts, Marsha seconded, approved.

- **Approve By-Laws for 2024-2025**

The board reviewed by laws. Roll call vote. Beth- aye, John-aye, Aaron-aye, Jeff-aye, Marsha- aye. The by-laws were approved.

- **Approve Reappointment of Aaron Ruff**

Marsha moved to approve the reappointment of Aaron Ruff to the Wapello County Conservation Board, Jeff seconded, approved.

- **2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget**

The director reviewed the proposed 24-25 Fiscal Year budget with the board. They discussed what line items were changing and why. The board would like to submit the proposed budget as is.

The director reviewed the proposed 24-25 fiscal year income. Discussion included adding money to the trust fund line item. The board decided to hold off at this time.

Marsha moved to present the budget as is to the supervisors, Jeff seconded, approved.

- **Board Approval of Resolution 22**

The director presented the board with a resolution needed to move forward with the Destination Iowa Grant. Roll call Vote.

Resolution needed to proceed with the Destination Iowa Grant. Roll call vote proceeded. Beth- aye, John-aye, Aaron-aye, Jeff-aye, Marsha- aye. The resolution was approved.

### **American Gothic Board Updates**

Cari presented the board with the AGHC 23/24FY budget and income. Cari will be adding two staff members. Discussed AGHC hours moving into the future.

Marsha moved to approve the AGHC FY budget and income, Jeff seconded, approved.

### **Staff Reports and Comments:**

Staff discussed different aspects of their staff reports and what they are currently doing.

Sara informed board about things they are currently doing with Meet Ottumwa. Activity books and On Eagle's Wings Wapello Wildlife Weekend.

### **Conservation Board Comments:**

none

### **Adjournment:**

Aaron, John, approved