

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, January 9th , 2023
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)

Call to Order:

Aaron Ruff called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Roll Call:

Aaron Ruff, Beth Doggett, Jeff Layton, Marsha Parker (zoom), John Henschied

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Paul Totten, Mike McCall, Sara Runyan, Amanda Jones, Cari Nicely, Austin Roe, and Sunshine Laursen.

Approval of Agenda:

Jeff moved to approve the agenda Beth seconded, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Jeff moved to approve the previous month's meeting minutes, John seconded, the minutes were approved.

Guests:

None

Claims:

- WCCB claims for the month of December were submitted for approval.
Jeff moved to approve the WCCB claims for the month of December, John seconded, the WCCB claims were approved.
- The American Gothic House Center claims for the month of December were submitted for approval.
Jeff moved to approve the AGHC claims for the month of December, John seconded, the AGHC claims were approved.

Old Business:

- **Conservation Budget**
Rick gave the final round of budget amendments to the board. The list contained various budget items. Listed items were; Clerk II wages, Legal Notices, Building Repair and Maintenance, Perm. Landscaping, Livestock and Poultry, AmeriCorps wages, Employee Meals and Lodging, and Operation's Supervisor wages. Jeff moved to approve the budget amendments, Beth seconded. The budget amendments were approved.

New Business:

- **Election of New Officers**
Beth Doggett moved to Chair and John Henschied becomes Vice Chair for the Wapello County Conservation Board. Jeff moved to elect Beth Doggett as chair and John Henschied as Vice Chair, Marsha seconded. The election of Vice Chair and Chair were approved.

- **Changing campground rates**

Staff met about the upcoming camping season. They presented the board with possibly guidelines for the 2023 camping season. Included in the guidelines were opening and closing dates for the campground and shower houses. They suggested a lower fee for the “off- season” when showers may not be available. Board decided on a hard opening date and allowing reservations with no refunds for weather. Jeff moved to approve the campground guidelines and prices. John seconded. The campground guidelines and prices were approved.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari Nicely gave the board an update on the AGHC. Their computer problem was fixed, but they did lose about 3% of revenue while it was down. They have seen an increase in attendance, but the sales per visitor have declined. The AGHC has also started a new check out process for costumes that is more efficient.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Rick informed the board that they will soon be advertising for a part time conservation aid. The position will begin the end of February and run through June 30th.

The DNR is hosting a deer and turkey meeting at the PRNC January 13th and staff and board are welcome to attend.

The board was given two tickets for the Pheasants Forever meeting January 21st. The board decided to give the tickets to staff if they would like them.

Winterfest is being held the 24th-26th and most of the staff will be attending.

The next WCCB meeting will be held February 13th.

Amanda informed the board that they were approached about partnering with Good Samaritan for a 5K at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area. The proceeds would be donated to “Bras for a Cause”. The board was interested in the idea, but would like more information. They would be willing to donate the use of the Red Haybarn to the 5k. Jeff moved to donate the use of the Red Haybarn to the event, John Seconded, the motion was approved.

Conservation Board Comments:

Marsha asked for an update on the campground grant. Rick informed her they have not heard anything yet.

Marsha asked for an update on the mouse traps. Austin is still checking traps, but has not been catching as many lately.

Adjournment:

Jeff moved to adjourn the meeting, John seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM