

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, November 13th, 2023
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)

Call to Order:

Beth Doggett called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

Roll Call:

Marsha Parker(Zoom), Beth Doggett, Aaron Ruff, and John Henscheid **Absent**- Jeff Layton,

Staff Present:

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

Approval of Agenda:

Aaron moved to approve the agenda, John seconded, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

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

Guests:

Darren Batterson, Chris Deyo, Steve O'Brien, and Anna Fielding.

Claims:

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

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

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

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

Old Business:

- **Office Manager/Community Outreach Coordinator**

At the previous meeting the board was given an updated job title and description for the Office Manager to change to Office Manager/ Community outreach Coordinator. Marsha asked if there would be salary change with it. Rick said not at this time but it would be put into the next budget year. Aaron moved to change the Office Managers current title and description to Office Manager/ Community Outreach Coordinator, John seconded, approved.

New Business:

- **Pheasants Forever sponsorship**

Rick asked the board if they would like to sponsor Pheasants Forever again this year. It is something that the board does annually. John moved to donate a \$300 sponsorship, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **Kirkville road update**

Progress has been made on the Kirkville road. Wapello County Secondary Roads is working on culverts and reshaping. This road will improve the public's access to the property, and will hopefully be done by the end of the week.

- **Solar presentation**

Midwest Solar presented a proposal for solar energy panels at the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center. They talked about past projects, what the system would look like, specs of the project, and environmental benefits. The project would be \$56,737.60 before a 30% tax credit. There are certain grants available to help with costs as well. It would be about a 12-15 year payback and would cover about 64% of the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center's utility bill.

- **Budget amendments**

The board received the budget amendments for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. This included line items that had large unexpected bills. Aaron moved to approve the budget amendments, John seconded, approved.

- **John Deere Environmental**

Anna Fielding spoke on behalf of John Deere. They are looking for an environmental volunteer project to participate in next year. Staff and board discussed possible projects and decided that a good use of the volunteer's time would be trail work at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area. This would include trail work, remarking, and mapping trails. Anna will present this to John Deere and let the board know if their project is chosen.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari updated the board on the American Gothic House Center. She currently has a large private Grant Wood collection on display at the center, and is looking for a part time position due to staff turnover.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Rick spoke about being approached to buy land near Garrison Rock, updated the board about the progress with moving the fence at Pearson Park, and someone in the community is looking to open a place of business named after Garrison Rock and was wanting the board's opinion.

Conservation Board Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

John moved to adjourn the meeting, Aaron seconded, the meeting adjourned 6:41PM.