

**Wapello County Conservation Board**  
**Regular Meeting Notice**  
**Monday, March 11th, 2024**  
**5:30 PM Meeting**  
**Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)**

**Call to Order:**

Jeff Layton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Staff Present:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

Marsha moved to approve the agenda, Beth seconded, approved

**Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:**

On the previous minutes there was an error of a partial sentence that needs to be removed. Marsha moved to approve the edited minutes, Beth seconded, the edited minutes were approved.

**Guests:**

Terry Dvorak (Zoom)

**Claims:**

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

Beth moved to approve the WCCB claims for the month of February, Marsha seconded, approved

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

Beth moved to approve the AGHC claims for the month of February, Marsha seconded, approved

**Old Business:**

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

Terry with Red Lion joined the meeting to answer questions about possible solar at the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center. The board asked various questions regarding the system including buy out options, maintenance, grants, and life of system. The board will review and let Red Lion tomorrow morning, and will have a conditional letter of intent, can be signed by conservation board

- **On Eagle's Wings**

Sara gave a report over the On Eagle's Wings event. Around 400 people attended the event and she received good feedback about the presenters and booths. This will hopefully continue to be an annual event.

**New Business:**

- **Kristi Davis Cancer Benefit Donation Request**

WCCB received a donation request for the Kristi Davis Cancer Benefit. Discussion followed over typical donations made by the board. Beth moved to donate an \$85 cabin coupon, Marsha seconded, approved.

- **Approve and Sign Bid Contract with Vicker Drilling**

Rick spoke about the bid packet and main points of the agreement with Vicker Drilling. Work should begin around May 1<sup>st</sup>. Marsha moved to approve and sign contract, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Annual Conference**

Rick spoke about the annual conference to be held in Decorah and requested that any board members interested in going let him know.

- **Educational Displays for the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center**

Sara disbursed booklets and paperwork for design displays. Discussion followed over the quote, different payments options, timelines, and grant opportunities. Once budget amendments have been approved, we will know better what money can be spent from this year's budget.

- **French Renekers Lake Study at Pioneer Ridge**

French Renekers recently presented the lake study at Pioneer Ridge. Discussion followed budget for project, lodging and timeline for the project.

#### **American Gothic Board Updates:**

Rick gave an update for the AGHC. They have two new board members, Cari is working on a Lowe's grant, and April 1<sup>st</sup> RAGBRAI route will be released.

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

Rick discussed the district meeting in Appanoose County. Other counties are facing the same hardships in terms of budgets because of the new bill passed by the state. The supervisors are looking in to trading in a couple of different vehicles to get the naturalist a new 4wd hatchback.

Sara spoke about the upcoming master conservationist program with ISU and Jefferson County. The cost will be \$40 per person and will take place in person with some online training.

#### **Conservation Board Comments:**

Discussed ongoing maintenance with cabins and furniture issues.

The board and staff further discussed whether or not to move forward with solar energy. Discussed advantages and disadvantages. The board reviewed the proposal packet.

Marsha moved we proceed with solar panels for the nature center only, Beth seconded, approved.

#### **Adjournment:**

Beth moved to adjourn the meeting, Marsha seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.