

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, April 8th, 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 (Zoom), 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, Jeff seconded, approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

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

Guests:

Darren Batterson

Claims:

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

Jeff moved to approve the WCCB claims for March, Aaron seconded, approved.

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

Aaron moved to approve the AGHC claims for March, Jeff seconded, approved.

Old Business:

- **Annual Conference**

Rick reminded the board it is the 17th-19th of September and wanted to know if any board members were interested. Jeff will be attending and the others will review their schedule and let Rick know.

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

Sara asked if the board would like to proceed with educational displays for the nature center. The total for the design is about \$16k, and we could pay for part this year and the rest next year. We will not know the total of the project until the design is finished.

Jeff moved to approve moving forward with design plans for displays upstairs at the nature center, Marsha seconded, approved.

- **Budget Amendments**

Rick sent the board budget amendments needed. Most of them are the original amendments approved in November, with a couple of additional unexpected bills that came in. Funds also need added to the campground budget to continue with project.

Aaron moved to approve the budget amendments, Jeff seconded, approved.

New Business:

- **Habitat Grant for Garrison Rock Property**

The land owner near Garrison Rock is applying to enroll the ground he previously approached the board to purchase in quail habitat, and wanted to know if the board would still be interested in purchasing. Rick could apply for a habitat grant to pay for the property along with Pheasants Forever 10% donation. If they went this route, they could not build a parking lot on this piece of property for 10 years, but they could drive on it to maintain the property.

Jeff moved to apply for the habitat grant, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **Remove Dock on Pond South of Nature Center**

The drainage system on the pond dam south of the nature center is failing. The pipe is collapsed was water is running around the pipe and eroding the dam. Mike spoke with two contractors and there are a couple of different routes that can be taken to fix the issue. One is more of a short term solution and is cheaper. The other is more expensive, but would be a long term fix. The reconstruction would also consist of removal of the fishing dock and part of the Nature's Way trail. Current estimates are \$8.5k to \$15k. Could apply for a fish habitat grant in September, but the funds would not be received for about a year.

Jeff moved to continue with getting bids for a long term fix. To correctly fix the pond dam and side walk, Aaron seconded, approved.

The dock will be removed with construction and Rick has spoken with the National Guard and they may build us a new dock as long as we provide the materials. Could also apply for an ADA grant and work with First Resources.

- **Tree Stand Confiscation Policy**

Staff wrote a sample tree stand confiscation policy for the board to review. The board reviewed the policy and discussed possible additions.

Jeff moved to approve the confiscation policy as written, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **Approval of Playground Design for Pioneer Ridge**

Rick gave the board different playground options for the campground. Discussion followed over options, safety, ADA accessibility, and materials. The board discussed which options they liked best, and the majority liked option C.

Jeff moved to proceed with option C, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **Pond Dam at Pioneer Ridge**

Discussed above.

- **Multi-flow System at Pioneer Ridge**

The company who regularly services our Multi-Flow system is no longer servicing those systems. We are currently looking for a new contractor, but are having a hard time finding a company in the area. Marsha and Darren gave Rick the name of a couple of different companies to call. Rick will call those companies and possibly set up a contract with them.

American Gothic Board Updates:

Cari has a speaker coming Saturday to the AGHC and has received her first art contest submission.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Marsha asked for clarification on different aspects of the staff's reports. Discussion followed.

Conservation Board Comments:

Discussion was had amongst the board and staff about getting the metals class at the high school involved with the construction of the railing on the nature center deck and the timeline for removal of the dock on the pond south of the nature center.

Adjournment:

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting, Jeff seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44PM.