

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, August 12th, 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, Beth Doggett, and John Henscheid

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Amanda Jones, Mike McCall, Cari Nicely, Paul Totten, John Scott, and Faith Poole

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Marsha moved to approve the previous monthly meeting minutes, Beth seconded, approved.

Guests:

Darren Batterson

Claims:

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

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

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

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

Old Business:

- **Personnel Policy**

Rick presented to the board the finalized PPE policy and uniform policy. Marsha question the definition of “rough terrain”. Discussion followed over the policies and definitions of “rough terrain”. Marsha moved to approve the policies with the change of “rough terrain” being defined as “not paved or gravel”, Beth seconded, approved.

New Business:

- **Special Use Permit**

Rick presented the board with a special use permit for an upcoming wedding at the Red Haybarn. The users requested to park an RV in the parking lot to be used to store food during their event. The RV would be removed after the event and would be hooked up to their personal generator. The users requested the \$50 special use permit be waived. Discussion followed. Marsha moved to approve the special use permit and waive the \$50 fee, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Private Business Use of Pioneer Ridge**

A business approached Rick about the possibility of them hosting guided trail rides at Pioneer Ridge. The business would collect a fee from participants and no money would be exchanged with WCCB. The board discussed and ultimately decided this is not something they would like to allow.

- **REAP Grant**

Rick informed the board that a REAP grant is being worked on for the land acquisition near Garrison Rock. He requested that the board put forth \$8k from the trust fund to out towards the grant. Rick discussed the support letters that he had received for the grant thus far and the protected species this land acquisition would benefit. The board discussed the specifications of the grant and land acquisition.

Marsha moved to approve the REAP grant and put \$8k from the trust towards the grant, Beth seconded, approved.

- **PPE Policy**

(Approved)

- **Transfer of REAP Funds for Playground**

Rick requested that the board approve the transfer of \$97k from the REAP fund to the Destination Iowa Fund for the new campground playground. Discussion followed over the campground progress, Legacy grant applications, and benefits of the playground. Marsha moved to transfer the \$97k from REAP funds to the Destination Iowa Fund, but continue to pursue a Legacy grant, Beth seconded, approved.

American Gothic Board Updates:

Cari updated the board on planting a memorial tree for Deb's son who recently passed away, the center will be closed due to staff illness and Cari being gone, the center will be closed for the Fun Run in Eldon, and a documentary will be filming at the AGHC. The American Gothic House will no longer be open on the second Saturday of the month unless the state of Iowa finds a new volunteer. Cari will still open the house for prearranged tour groups.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Rick informed the board that there has been an issue with the residents of the house that borders Garrison Rock. They are parking their vehicle in the on WCCB property and staff cannot get vehicles or equipment onto the property. Staff discussed the issue with the boundaries on the property. Staff will continue to trying to speak with the residents.

Conservation Board Comments:

Marsha informed the board and staff about the Halloween Hike. It will be held on October 18th and 19th and the theme is Superheroes.

Marsha also discussed setting up a time for the Director's performance review.

Adjournment:

Beth moved to adjourn the meeting, Marsha seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:22PM.