

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday September 9th, 2024
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)
Minutes

Call to Order:

John Henscheid called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

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

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Amanda Jones, Mike McCall, Cari Nicely, Paul Totten, John Scott, and Sara Runyan

Approval of Agenda:

Aaron moved to approve the agenda as submitted, Beth seconded, approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Beth moved to approve the previous monthly meeting minutes as submitted, Aaron seconded, approved.

Recognition of Guests:

Darren Batterson, Wayne Scott

Claims:

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

Aaron moved to approve the claims, Jeff seconded, approved.

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

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

Old Business:

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New Business:

- **Pioneer Ridge Bees**

Wayne Scott spoke to the board and staff about the 7 honey bee hives he manages at Pioneer Ridge. When the honey was harvested this year he separated all of the honey from Pioneer Ridge coming to 220 lbs. HE brought samples of the honey for the board to try. Jars are available to purchase through Wayne. Discussion followed over having some jars of honey at the nature center to purchase with a portion of the profits going towards new displays for the nature center.

- **Campground Host**

The director discussed with the board about advertising for a campground host next year for the Pioneer Ridge Campground. The campground host would be responsible for maintaining restrooms, selling firewood, answering guest's questions, and other various tasks. The wage for the host will be negotiated on experience. Jeff moved to move forward with a campground host, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Uniform policy**

Cari gave the board a uniform policy for the staff at the AGHC and discussed uniform expectations. Jeff moved to approve the uniform policy, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **Board Member Vacancy**

Marsha informed the board that she would not be reapplying to be a board member when her term is up at the end of the year. The board and staff thanked Marsha for her 35 years of service on the board. Discussion followed over advertisements and deadlines for applicants. The board decided to have applications due back by 11/1 to allow for adequate time for the applications to be reviewed and approved by the end of Marsha's term.

- **Memorandum of Understanding for the Wapello Co. EMA AED**

The board was given a memorandum regarding the AED installed outside of the nature center by Wapello Co. EMA. The memorandum details the responsibility of the WCCB regarding the upkeep and maintenance for the AED. Jeff moved to approve and sign the memorandum, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **2025 Cabin Pricing**

The board discussed 2025 cabin pricing. Amanda informed the board about issues that arose throughout the year with the new group date system and occupancy rates. The board ultimately decided to keep the same rates and systems as last year. They were reassess again before opening dates for 2026.

- **Wapello County Wildlife Weekend**

Sara informed the board that this year's Wapello County Wildlife Weekend would be January 18th at the Bridge View Center and the theme will be "Art in Nature".

- **Sherriff's Office Interested in Van**

Sherriff Phillips approached Rick about purchasing the WCCB's passenger van. Discussion followed over use of the van. The board suggested selling the van and using the money to go towards a more adequate vehicle for the naturalist. Aaron moved to move forward with selling the van and using the money to go towards a new vehicle for the naturalist, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Vicker Drilling Pay Request #2**

Vicker Drilling submitted their second pay request. Jeff moved to approve the pay request, Aaron seconded, approved.

A staff member at John Deere reached out to Darren about a possible volunteer day at Pioneer Ridge. Discussion followed over what the group could do. Staff and board decided a good project for the group would be to paint the red haybarn shelter.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari updated the board about the American Gothic House Center and the movie she is involved in about Grant Wood.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Sara informed the board that the nature center revamp concepts are nearing completion.

Amanda reminded the board about the Run for the Ridge on September 28th.

Conservation Board Comments:

Marsha spoke about the Halloween Hike.

Adjournment:

Aaron moved to adjourn, Jeff seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.