

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday November 4th , 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 5:30PM.

Roll Call:

Marsha Parker, Beth Doggett, Jeff Layton, and Aaron Ruff and John Henscheid

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Amanda Jones, Mike McCall, Cari Nicely, and Paul Totten

Approval of Agenda:

Marsha moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Jeff, approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

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

Recognition of Guests:

Sophie Rotole and Darren Batterson

Claims:

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

Marsha moved to approve the claims, Jeff seconded, the claims for the month of October were approved.

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

Carrie informed the board that there were some changes. Marsha moved to approve the claims with the changes, Beth seconded, the claims for the month of October were approved.

Old Business:

- **Campground Host Update**

A couple of people have expressed interest, but no applications have been filled out.

Discussion followed over hours required of campground host. Host/s are expected to be at site most of the time especially on the weekends. Possible campground host duties were discussed; checking bathrooms, selling firewood, etc.

- **Board Member Vacancy Update**

Sophie Rotole was the only applicant for the board member opening. The board will set up a time to meet with Sophie.

New Business:

- **Updated Appraisal of Garrison Rock**

Ross Baxter with the INHF would like to apply for a Habitat Grant for the Garrison Rock addition, but a new appraisal needs done. Discussed tax credits, procedure to acquire property. The appraisal is \$1500 with Dewey. Needs to be done by November. Marsha moved to approve appraisal, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Fencing at Garrison Rock**

There has been an ongoing area with the neighbors at Garrison Rock. On multiple occasions, staff has attempted to enter the property and have encountered aggressive dogs that belong to the neighbor. The area is a mitigation property and cannot be sold, so the next step is to have the property surveyed and a fence built. Rick will check with the recorder's office to see if there is an up to date survey and will keep the board informed if more action needs to be taken.

- **Expenditures out of trust fund for trail signs**

Paul has requested that the money from the Horse donation box be used to purchase posts for updated trail signage. Seventy posts are needed at about \$10 a piece. Marsha moved to spend money out of the trust fund for posts for trail signage, Beth seconded, approved.

American Gothic Board Updates

Carrie updated the board about the new cherry tree exhibit at the AGHC, finding a new company to purchase AGH wine from to sell, and winning 3rd place at Witch Way to Main.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Paul has reached out about a new hot water for the nature Center. The current hot water heater is not keeping up and is the original hot water heater with the building.

Marsha updated the board on the Halloween Hike. 323 people attended the event.

Conservation Board Comments:

Darren shared a map of possible areas for a potential new US Cellular tower.

Rick updated the board on the campground expansion. Rain has delayed the project some, but the playground will be delivered and installed next week.

Adjournment:

Marsha moved to adjourn, Beth seconded, meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.