

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, July 10th , 2023
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)

Call to Order:

Beth Doggett called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Roll Call:

Beth Doggett, Marsha Parker, and John Henschied **Absent:** John Layton and Aaron Ruff

Staff Present:

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

Approval of Agenda:

Marsha moved to approve the agenda, John seconded, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Marsha moved to approve the previous month's meeting minutes, John seconded, the minutes were approved.

Approval of June 20th Special Meeting Minutes:

Marsha moved to approve the minutes from the June 20th special meeting, John seconded, the minutes were approved.

Approval of July 6th Special Meeting Minutes:

Marsha moved to approve the minutes from the July 6th special meeting, John seconded, the minutes were approved.

Guests:

Bryan Ziegler, Sophie Rotole

Claims:

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

Marsha moved to approve the WCCB claims from the month of June, John seconded, the claims were approved.

- The American Gothic House Center claims for the month of June were submitted for approval.

Marsha moved to approve the AGHC claims from the month of June, John seconded, the claims were approved.

Old Business:

- **Garrison Rock Property**

The Wapello County Board of supervisors asked the Wapello County Conservation Board if they would be willing to use REAP funds to pay for 50% of the price for the property purchase bordering the existing Garrison Rock Property. The board discussed the need for REAP funds in case the campground expansion were to run over budget. Bryan Ziegler stated that the board of supervisors would feel strongly compelled to help the conservation board if the project were to run over budget and voiced his support for the purchase of the additional property. The board discussed the wanting all board members there before making a final decision.

Marsha moved to table until special a meeting July 31st, John seconded, the matter was tabled.

- **Park Rules and Regulations**

John moved to approve the rules and regulations the board was previously given, Marsha seconded, the rules and regulations were approved.

John moved for the rules and regulations to be reviewed and approved annually by the Wapello County Conservation Board, Marsha seconded, approved.

- **Air Conditioning at the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center**

The board was given bids to replace the current broken air conditioning and heating equipment in the nature center. Marsha questioned solar power for air conditioning and Rick will look it into it in the future as part of a more extensive process with covering the existing outside vents.

Marsha moved to accept and proceed with the Hindman and Person Bid and then pursue solar power in the future, John seconded, the motion was approved.

- **Annual Conference**

Rick reminded the board and staff about the annual conference and asked if they were attending to let him know soon. The conference is set to be held September 19th through the 21st.

New Business:

- **Cleaning company for the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center**

The board was given Pioneer Ridge Nature Center and cabin cleaning bids. Marsha moved to accept and proceed with the cleaning bid from Amber and Ian Mitzefeld, John seconded, the motion was approved.

- **Cabin rental stay limit**

The director and staff informed the board that some customers were wanting to book cabin stays for longer than 14 days. The current website does not allow for stays longer than 14 days, so they are booking with a different name and transaction. Discussion proceeded about if the stay should be extended or keep the same stay requirements of the campground.

The board ultimately decided to keep the cabin stay limit of 14 days in a 21 period for a rental party. Rental parties that attempt to stack reservations will have their reservation canceled and \$50 of the reservation will be retained.

- **Employee cell phones**

The employees expressed the need for work cell phones. They currently use personal phones to get in touch with parents, each other in the field, and promotional material. The board would like more information on costs for the cell phones and will discuss at the next meeting.

- **Contract with Boulton and Mink**

The board was given the contract for Boulton and Mink for the campground expansion. Marsha moved for the contract to be signed after the county attorney approves the contract, John seconded, the motion was approved.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari updated the board about camps held at the AGHC and reiterated the need for an addition onto the AGHC to accommodate guests. She also reported that they have made more in income from the admission fee in the first three months than they made from donations in the entire previous fiscal year.

Staff Reports and Comments:

None

Conservation Board Comments:

Halloween hike will be held 13th and 14th of October and the will be bugs and insects.

Bryan Ziegler noted that the conservation employees that are currently salary but do not fit the requirements will be switched to hourly soon and the employees will be notified beforehand. He also expressed that the Wapello County Conservation Board was welcome to attend the county supervisors meetings and he would be interested in making long term plans together.

Adjournment:

Marsha moved to adjourn, John seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.