

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, February 12th, 2024
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)

Call to Order:

Jeff Layton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Aaron moved to approve the minutes, Beth seconded, approved.

Guests:

Darren Batterson, David and Debbie Truit

Claims:

- WCCB claims for the month of January were submitted for approval. Beth moved to approve the WCCB claims, Aaron seconded, approved.

- The American Gothic House Center claims for the month of January were submitted for approval. Aaron moved to approve the AGHC claims, Beth seconded, approved.

Old Business:

- **Solar Energy for Pioneer Ridge Nature Center**

The board did not bring forth any more questions for the Red Lion solar company and the company has not yet sent in an explanation for the four ways to pay. Board discussed wanting to know how buying electricity from the company would work and whether or not a decision had been made to go with solar. The board has yet to make a final decision and are still exploring options and will table for now.

- **Approval of New Personnel Policy**

The new county personnel policy was given to the board members. Darren explained changes from the old policy to the new one. The new policy includes a conflict of interest policy that the board also received. Jeff moved to approve the new personnel policy, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **Approval of Conflict of Interest Policy**

The conflict of interest policy was approved with the new county personnel policy.

- **On Eagle's Wings**

Sara gave the board an overview of the On Eagle's Wings event, talked about the WCCB booth and asked for board member volunteers to assist Amanda with the booth.

New Business:

- **Project Priority List for 24-25 FY**

The board of supervisors asked the WCCB to prioritize its list of wants for the 24-25 FY. Rick has emailed the board the list of proposed budget amendments to be scored and prioritized by the board. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.

- **RAGBRAI**

RAGBRAI will be going past the American Gothic House Center this year. Rick and Cari will be attending meetings discussing what to prepare for with the influx of visitors. Staff and board discussed different fundraising ideas and what was needed to prepare for the visitors.

- **Close Meeting for Public Comments on Campground Bid**

Aaron moved to close the meeting for public comment on the campground bid, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Public Comment**

Dave and Debbie expressed interest in knowing the layout of the new campground and commented that the current spacing of the campground was ideal. The layout of the future campground was shown and discussion followed over the spacing of the new sites.

- **Close Public Comment**

Jeff moved to close the public comment, Aaron seconded, approved.

- **Approval of Contractor's Bid Packet for Campground Projects at Pioneer Ridge**

Jeff moved to approve the contractor's bid packet for the campground projects at Pioneer Ridge, Aaron seconded, approved.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari updated the board with the ongoing events at the AGHC including, new AGHC board members, applying for a Lowe's grant with Meet Ottumwa, applying for a grant with the Legacy Foundation, tour groups, a movie filming at the AGH, an interview for Porchfest, a Grant Wood speaker at the AGHC in April, and Cari's upcoming presentation at NAI.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Sara met with Bon Neuman of McCullough Designs about redoing the displays in the nature center. There is currently \$6k in the budget for new displays, but we know this will not cover everything and fundraising will need to be done. Bob will get Sara the preliminary designs and try to work within our budget.

Conservation Board Comments:

Marsha asked staff questions about staff reports.

Rick reminded board members about annual conference and encouraged them to let him know if they would like to go.

Adjournment:

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting, Jeff seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:42PM.