

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday October 14th, 2024
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)
Minutes

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call: Marsha Parker, Beth Doggett, Jeff Layton, and Aaron Ruff **Absent:** 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, Beth seconded, approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

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

Recognition of Guests:

None

Claims:

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

Marsha moved to approve the WCCB claims for the month of September, Aaron seconded. The claims were approved.

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

Marsha moved to approve the AGHC claims for the month of September, Aaron seconded. The claims were approved.

Old Business:

- **Campground Host Update**

There has been one couple express interest in the campground host position. Discussion followed over job duties and job description. The board also discussed what surrounding counties were doing for payment and job descriptions. Surrounding counties are paying from \$150-\$250 a week. Rick will put together a job description and Amanda will advertise again.

Rick updated board over status of campground, destination Iowa grants, and funding.

- **Board Member Vacancy Update**

There has been no board member applications so far. Amanda advertised again today.

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

The Sherriff's office is no longer interested in the van because the cage they were given did not fit.

New Business:

- **Annual Report**

The board reviewed annual report and made comments over corrections they would like to see made.

- **Halloween Hike**

Marsha updated the board about the Halloween Hike this coming weekend. There are over 50 volunteers. Marsha has advertised with various forms. Discussion followed over solar lights, set up and tear down. Amanda and Sara spoke about current sign ups. About 200 are signed up with the majority of sign-ups are for Friday night.

- **Resolution to Host Annual Conference in 2027 with Mahaska County Conservation**

Mahaska and Wapello County are looking at hosting the 2027 annual conference. Rick talked about the requirements of being the host county. The 50th anniversary of the Wapello County Conservation Board will also be in 2027 and this would be a great time to celebrate.

Roll call vote to pass the resolution of hosting the 2027 annual conference with Mahaska County was conducted. Ayes-Aaron, Marsha, Beth, Jeff. The resolution passed.

- **Powerline Through Sycamore**

Rick was contacted by the supervisors about expanding the powerline right away at Sycamore. This may cause issues because it is a mitigation site. Rick will continue to look into the situation and keep the board updated.

- **EBike Usage on Trails**

Amanda received a call from the park ranger at Rathbun regarding Ebike usage on trails. The surrounding counties and state parks have seen an increase in usage of Ebikes and it has lead them to form policies regarding the usage. Ebikes are allowed to be used on trails as long as they fall under a certain size. The board discussed rather they should follow the state rules or form their own policy. The board ultimately decided to not make their own policy and follow the states policies. They will continue to monitor and see if any issues arise.

- **Cell Tower at Kirksville**

The supervisors were contacted about putting a cell tower on Kirksville Wildlife Area. Rick informed the supervisors because it was a habitat grant this could not be done.

- **Weekend Cabin Stay Donation to Wellness Committee**

Amanda spoke to the board about changing the typical donation of 1 night to 3 nights. The coupons haven't been used in the past and she thinks more nights would be a good incentive. The board was okay with that.

- **Set Date and Time for Director Yearly Review**

The board discussed the date and time everyone is available for the Director yearly review. The board will meet Monday, December 2nd and then Tuesday, December 3rd with the director at Gateway School.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari updated the board about events at the AGHC and meeting with the movie producers in England.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Rick read a thank you letter from the Iowa DNR regarding our partnership with the DNR and our MOTUS system.

Rick discussed issue over the weekend with National Guard usage of the park. Rick will speak with the commander about the appropriate usage of the park for National Guard drills.

Conservation Board Comments:

Marsha asked about the event email sign up, Amanda explained it was to get events to the public in a timely manner.

Adjournment:

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