

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, February 10, 2025
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)
Minutes

Call to Order:

Jeff called the meeting to order at 5:30PM

Roll Call:

John Henscheid, Aaron Ruff, Beth Doggett, Sophie Rotole, and Jeff Layton

Staff Present:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

John moved to approve the previous month's minutes, Beth seconded, approved.

Recognition of Guests:

Jennifer Mills, Michael Mills, Darren Batterson, Red Lion

Claims:

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

Discussed large payments related to the campground. Beth moved to approve the claims, Aaron seconded, approved.

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

John moved to approve the AGHC claims, Sophie seconded, approved.

Old Business:

- **Campground Host Update**

Jennifer and Michael Mills attended meeting to speak with the board about campground host duties. They have never been campground hosts before but are willing to learn. Discussed day to day duties and the Mills talked about why they want this position. They will be available Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Aaron moved to approve the campground host applicant, John seconded, approved.

- **24/25 Fiscal Year Budget**

Reviewed the 24/25 FY budget with board. Spending is right on track. Amendments have been submitted to the auditor. Reviewed amendments with board. We have received bids to fix the water line that is leaking to the old house.

- **Approve By Laws**

Board reviewed by laws, Beth brought to the attention of the board that posting agenda at the Wapello Building needs to be removed from the by laws, Aaron moved to approve the by laws with this correction, John seconded, approved.

- **2025 Annual Conference- Okoboji September 16th-18th**

Reminded board to check their calendars and let Rick know if they will be attending.

New Business:

- **Future of the Halloween Hike**

Discussed as a staff the future of the Halloween Hike with it being handed over from the Heritage Foundation. This is a large event with many moving pieces. The event will be October 17th and 18th, 2025. The bus fund will be added to the budget and paid out with claims. Talked possible partnerships to ease the burden of volunteers.

- **Special Use Permit**

Board reviewed the special use permit. Aaron moved to approve, Beth seconded, the special use permit was approved.

- **Budget Amendments**

Reviewed amendments above.

- **Vicker Pay Request**

Vicker submitted pay request #3 with change orders included. There were not additional project costs. Aaron moved to approve the pay request and change orders, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Red Lion**

Red Lion spoke with the board about moving forward with the solar project now that funding is available. Rick will have the county attorney review the contract. This project will come at no cost to the board. The board would still like to have an educational piece on display at the nature center to tell the public about the solar energy. This is possible as long as there is an internet connection. Red Lion currently has over 150 systems across Iowa and has worked with many other CCB's.

Aaron moved to move forward with the project pending the approval of the contract by the county attorney. John seconded, approved.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari informed the board that she will need to replace the security system soon at the AGHC.

Staff Reports and Comments:

March 7th will be Paul's retirement party from 2-6PM at the nature center.

Rick spoke with the board about the nature center possible being closed due to weather on Thursday.

Amanda touched base on how the cell phones have been used within the department and have been very helpful.

Conservation Board Comments:

Darren asked the board to revisit selling the county van to get a new vehicle for the naturalist. The staff would like to keep the small car to allow for the office manager and AmeriCorps intern to have a vehicle to drive when needed.

Adjournment:

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