

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Wednesday May 7th, 2025
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)
Agenda

Call to Order:

Jeff called the meeting to order at 5:36PM

Roll Call:

John Henscheid, Jeff Layton (Chair)(Zoom), Sophie Rotole (Zoom), and Beth Doggett

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Paul Totten, Amanda Jones, Cari Nicely, John Scott, Mike McCall, RoseMary Miller, and Sara Runyan

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

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

Recognition of Guests:

Willene White and Darren Batterson

Claims:

- **Conservation**

Beth moved to approve the conservation claims for the month of April, Sophie seconded, approved.

- **Gothic House**

Sophie moved to approve the American Gothic House Center Claims for the month of April, Beth seconded, approved.

Old Business:

- **Campground Update**

During the electrical inspection there was an issue identified with the amount of wire ran. The director and engineer have been discussing the issue. The director read a letter from the Bolton and Menk explaining the issue. To rectify the issue there has been a change order provided by Bolton and Menk. The change order is for \$22,622.52. Because this was not in the original project cost it would need to be paid out of the trust fund. Discussion followed. Beth moved to pay for the change order out of the conservation department's trust fund. John seconded, approved.

New Business:

- **AmeriCorps Position Termination**

Sara was contacted by AmeriCorps last week to let her know that the branch of the department in which our AmeriCorps member, Hannah Lyons, provides service for the department had been terminated. This unfortunately would leave the Environmental Education staff severely short staffed for their busiest time of year. If the position was left vacant, school trips and summer camps would have to be canceled. After staff

discussion, they decided the best course of action would be to shift the conservation aide to naturalist/conservation aide and allow Hannah to continue serving, but be paid by the county. John moved to hire Hannah Lyons as the seasonal employee, Beth seconded, approved.

John moved to hire Hannah Lyons as the seasonal employee, Beth, approved.

Sara will keep the board informed as more develops with the AmeriCorps program.

- **County Policies Approval**

Amanda reviewed the proposed county policies with the board. Staff met earlier in the day to make notes for possible changes. She reviewed those as well with the board. Amanda will forward on the notes made by the board and staff for proposed changes to the policies.

- **Procedure in Case of Director Absence**

The director reviewed the current chain of command with the board. Staff noted that they education department was not covered in the current chain of command. The director will review the flow chart previously provided for changes and present them to the board at the next meeting.

- **Glamping Cabin Prices**

Staff reviewed the changes made to the Goldfinch cabin when transitioning it to a glamping cabin. The board and staff discussed price changes to reflect the new accommodations. Beth moved to set the Goldfinch cabin price at \$65 a night all seven days of the week with the weekend grouped, John seconded, approved.

- **Change Easement Contract for Powerline at Sycamore with ITC Midwest**

ITC Midwest contacted Rick about the powerline changing slightly that is going in at Sycamore. The director provided a picture of the new proposed powerline to the board. It is just a minor change of the original angle of the powerline. They did not they may need to possibly make changes to the parking lot and gate to accommodate for equipment. Beth moved to approve the changes, John seconded, approved.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari went to CTR program will be dismantling, may be small grant possibilities, ITIP will be the only tourism entity for the state, Historic Hills is next week, alarm system is being installed, Legacy is going to work with AGHC because the federal government retracted funding.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Board and staff discussed equine use in the new campground. There has been no changes to rules regarding horse use in the parks, but it has brought up questions and concerns. Staff and board reviewed the rules, and what could possibly be done in the future for the equine riders.

Conservation Board Comments:

Willene White discussed what was needed for the conservation department's insurance coverage of buildings and equipment. Discussed labeling systems and correct procedure to get everything covered properly.

Adjournment:

John moved to adjourn the meeting, Jeff seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.