

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday June 9th, 2025
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)
Agenda

Call to Order:

Aaron Ruff called the meeting to order at 5:29PM.

Roll Call:

John Henscheid, Aaron Ruff, Sophie Rotole, 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:

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

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

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

Recognition of Guests:

Darren Batterson

Claims:

- **Conservation**

Beth moved to approve the conservation claims for the month of June, John seconded, approved.

- **Gothic House**

John moved to approve the American Gothic House Center claims for the month of June, Beth seconded, approved

Old Business:

- **Campground Update**

Rick updated the board on the progress of the campground update. We are working closely with Emily at Bolton and Menk and the contractors to stay on course for the June 20th opening. Electrical is finishing up, the staff is working on shade structures, and the campground map for the shower house is complete. There will be a free will donation fish and chip fry at the opening.

Solar panels are being installed at the nature center, and Rick will follow up with Red Lion about an educational display in the nature center when they have completed construction.

- **Procedure in Case of Director Absence**

Rick has updated the procedure in case of the Director's extended absence for board approval. The board read, reviewed and signed the proposed procedure.

New Business:

- **Approve Purchase of Garrison Rock Addition**

INHF has purchased the piece of land attached to Garrison Rock. We will submit payment after the first of the budget year. The total for the purchase is \$71,859.75. John moved to approve the purchase, Beth seconded, approved.

- **Approve Vehicle for Naturalist**

The total for the new naturalist vehicle is \$14,875.00 after the van trade in, Beth moved to approve the purchase, John seconded, approved.

- **Approve Sportsman Ad**

The Sportsman reached out to Rick about an advertisement opportunity. Discussion followed. Aaron asked if there was room in the advertisement budget, and Rick confirmed that there was. John moved to approve moving forward with the advertisement, Sophie seconded, approved.

- **End of FY budget**

Rick reviewed the end of the FY budget with the board and staff. There will be enough money left in the budget to purchase a vehicle for the naturalist, and enough to cover the additional wires needed for the campground, if the supervisors agree to move the money to the trust fund. John motioned to request the supervisors to move money remaining in the budget to the trust fund to cover the additional cost of the campground, Beth seconded, Approved.

- **Approve the Campground Host Agreement**

Board reviewed the proposed campground host agreement. John moved to approve the agreement, Beth seconded, approved.

American Gothic Board Updates

Aaron reported that the American Gothic 5k went well.

Staff Reports and Comments:

The Iowa DNR reached out to the CCBs along the Des Moines river over google mapping the river. The DNR is willing to cover 50% of the project, with the remaining amount to be divided amongst the county boards. Discussion followed. Rick will reach back out to them and let them know we are interested, but it will not commit us to anything.

The Heritage foundation reached out to the board for a \$500 donation. Rick talk to the Wapello County Heritage Foundation to see if they are interested in donating.

Conservation Board Comments:

Sara updated the board about what the Education department will look like moving forward after losing AmeriCorps. Will keep the board up to date. Aaron recommended reaching out to Kolby Mercer for assistance from the school.

Sara is working with the TAP program and bluebird projects.

Rick reviewed policy changes with the board, informed the board about upcoming events.

Adjournment:

Beth moved to adjourn the meeting, Sophie seconded, meeting adjourned at 6:06PM.