

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday August 11th, 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 5:30PM.

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Paul Totten, Amanda Jones, Hannah Lyons, John Scott, Mike McCall, and Sara Runyan

Approval of Agenda:

Beth, John, approved

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Sophie, John, approved

Recognition of Guests:

Jennifer and Mike Mills, Darren Batterson

Claims:

- **Conservation**

Final claims were paid for campground, Phillips property has been paid for, Beth, John, approved

- **Gothic House**

John, Sophie, approved

Old Business:

- **360 Imagery of Des Moines River**

Rick shared the proposed agreement and fee schedule for the project. Rick would pay out of trust fund account, price is \$2,183.76. John, Beth, approved

New Business:

- **Law Enforcement/ Issues in Campground**

Mike detailed issues that have been arising in the campground. Issues range from drugs, campers being abandoned, stolen clothes, etc. This is to start a conversation about possible law enforcement for the parks in the future.

Rick has discussed with the supervisors in the past that law enforcement is needed at the park.

Jennifer Mills, campground host, have found that people are coming in and using electrical boxes in the night. Detailed their experiences.

Board would like security cameras. Password for wifi. Asked about a possible gate across campground road. Sherriff said they will double up patrol in the nature area.

We will continue this conversation as things develop.

- **Equine Use Policy**

The campground hosts have had a lot of issues with equine users, Amanda has had issues online, in person, and over the phone. Discussed adding primitive equine sites for campers in the trailer parking. Will look into that and get prices.

- **Special Use Permit**

Bouncy house, Beth, John, approved

- **Halloween Hike Camping**

Possibly half price for campers, board was okay with that

- **2026 Rental Prices**

2026 has not been opened yet, Amanda asked the board if they would like to adjust prices, the board is okay with keeping the prices the same

- **AmeriCorps Position**

Sara discussed the need for a second naturalist, the pros and cons of staying with AmeriCorps or pursuing a part time naturalist. Hannah spoke to the board about her experience with AmeriCorps and being a Wapello County Employee.

The board supports moving away from AmeriCorps and adding a part time naturalist.

- **Nature Center Displays**

Amanda updated the board on fundraising for displays and grants.

- **Bicycles on Nature's Way Trail**

Bikes are historically not allowed on Nature's Way Trail. But Rick cannot find record of it. John moved to allow bikes on Nature's Way Trail, Sophie, approved

American Gothic Board Updates

AGHC approved an additional week of vacation, for the administrator. A lot of activities

Staff Reports and Comments:

There is a new IT policy for board approval. Rick will speak with Andy.

Conservation Board Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Sophie, John, meeting adjourned at 6:51PM