

**Wapello County Conservation Board**  
**Regular Meeting Notice**  
**Monday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 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:**

Jeff Layton (call in), John Henscheid, Aaron Ruff, Beth Doggett and Sophie Rotole

**Staff Present:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

John moved to approve the agenda, Sophie second, agenda was approved.

**Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:**

John moved to approve the previous monthly meeting minutes, Beth second, approved

**Recognition of Guests:**

Darren Batterson

**Claims:**

- **Conservation**

Rick discussed claims; tree service at Pearson, hotels for annual conference. Beth moved to approve the conservation claims for the month of October, John seconded, approved.

- **Gothic House**

Rick discussed claims and revenue of the AGHC. John moved to approve the AGHC claims and revenue for the month of October, Sophie second, approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Eddyville Barn Update**

The director spoke to the board about what was happening with the Eddyville barn. Insurance has given a quote for replacement. Rick has received two bids for rebuilding the barn, and is still waiting to hear back from the Eddyville Fire Department about removing the barn. Rick has received one bid to remove the barn. Once the barn has been removed they can start reconstruction. The board and staff discussed gravel vs cement flooring in the barn. Darren will help to get an estimate for cement.

- **On Call Policy**

The director spoke with other departments in the county about their on call policy. The other departments do not have any written policy for employees that are on call. Rick spoke with other conservation departments about their on call policies. Rick will put together a policy for the board next meeting.

**New Business:**

- **Park Ranger Request Letter**

The board signed off on the Park Ranger Request letter. This is to start the discussion for a park ranger in the future. Park ranger would still have conservation technician typical duties.

- **Memorial Wishing Well**

The Truitt family has expressed interest in a wishing well for the Dave Truitt Memorial monies. Rick communicated to Mrs. Truitt that the board may deny it. The family would like to put the wishing well in front of shower house. Discussion followed over the well. There is possibility of vandalism with the well. The board would like staff to come up with a few options that would fit the needs of the department for the Truitt Family to pick from.

- **Ditch Clean Out at Pearson Park**

Mike met with contractor about the trash pit at Pearson Park. The contractor stated it may be hard to bid on because they do not know how much trash is in the ditch. The overall goal is to develop the site and have a pond.

- **Handbook Policy Changes**

County supervisors have made changes to the handbook. Changes were given to the board for approval. John moved to approve the amendments, Beth second, approved.

- **Budget 25/26 FY American Gothic House Center/ Wapello County Conservation**

Rick explained changes made to the 25/26 FY.

AGHC- Beth moved to approve the 25/26 FY budget for the AGHC, Sophie second, approved.

WCCB- Revenue- remain unchanged because we are only a few months into the fiscal year. Rick explained changes to the budget, changes in chemical, fertilizer, operation construction. The field staff have requested a Meg welder and bat wing mower. Discussion followed over equipment needs. Part time naturalist position (29 hours a week), added \$2k into naturalist line to pay for bus grants, 9.8% increase 4.8% without additional purchases.

Beth moved to approve the WCCB 25/26 FY budget, John second, approved.

- **American Gothic House Center Annual Report**

Rick presented the board with the American Gothic House Center Annual report, the board signed off on the report.

### **American Gothic Board Updates**

None. May have to give back Legacy Grant because Zach Nuun's office's funding did not come through. Still in desperate need of education center.

### **Staff Reports and Comments:**

Rick gave update about annual conference, finishing destination Iowa, and Garrison Rock purchase.

Sara updated the board about the Halloween Hike. Still in need actors, but other positions are filled.

Equestrians have issues with the current horse camping due to trailers blocking in trailers that were camping.

Staff will be looking at extending horse camping farther into natural area.

### **Conservation Board Comments:**

Beth updated the board about the annual conference.

### **Adjournment:**

John moved to adjourn, Sophie second, meeting adjourned at 6:28PM.