

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by Vice-President Gavin at 6:16 p.m.

Those present:

Joe Gavin, Vice-President  
Ace Hendricks, Secretary  
Mick Kreidler  
Sue Boll

Absent:

Ron Miller, President

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Jim Priebe, Director  
David Youngblut, Op Coordinator  
Mark Wilson, Natural Resources Specialist  
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II  
Logan Roberts, Naturalist I

Absent:

Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician

Guest(s): Judy Hendricks, Ackworth, Iowa.

- ii. The minutes of the May 2015 meetings were discussed. Sue Boll moved to approve the May 2015 minutes as corrected. Ace Hendricks seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- iii. May 2015 Staff Reports were discussed and accepted as presented. Ace Hendricks commented on the number and variety of programs being presented by the Naturalists.
- iv. Business Agenda:
- a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

Minutes from the most recent FWCC meeting were included in the meeting packet.

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski highlighted the preparation of the volunteer handbook and forms and that two students—one Simpson College's Upward Bound, the other a DMAACC student working with Genesis Development—will be working an afternoon or two a week for most of the summer. These students will be coming at no cost to the Conservation Board.

2. Cumming Drainage:

David Youngblut and Jim Priebe were through the area June 3. There is currently standing water in a portion of the trail drainage and it is difficult to even make a guess at when work can resume.

3. Iowa DOT North River mitigation site reports:

The North River I agreement with Iowa DOT has been fully executed. Staff will be ordering boundary signs soon and making plans for parking and trails.

Jim Priebe and Supervisor Dean Yordi met with Lamar Koethe about his property adjacent to North River II. He set the price for the 13 acres at \$7,000 per acre. The Conservation Board felt strongly that price was more than they were willing to spend for bottomland. The Board directed staff to again try to make contact with other neighbors (specifically those north and south of Koethe) and look into any possible use of the level C road for access.

4. Chuck Lenze memorial:  
The plaques for the memorial were received June 9. They will be installed prior to the Lenze event at the Annett Nature Center in July.
  5. Lawson lease renegotiation:  
Jim Priebe informed the board that he has discussed renegotiating the Lawson lease at the Annett Nature Center Park with Mr. Lawson and done some research into current values for leasing access to properties in Warren County. Using leases from Warren, Clarke, and Madison Counties, a wide range of prices was found, from \$8.57–35.00/acre. Priebe felt that something in the area of \$20.00/acre would be acceptable. The Board directed him to proceed and bring them a final proposal after working with Mr. Lawson. Priebe also said he felt it would be proper to offer to renegotiate the Woodland Mounds lease if the ANC Park lease is redone at a higher rate.
  6. Pollinator room discussion, direction:  
Staff expressed a desire to continue looking for funding sources for the pollinator room, with an estimated cost of \$45,000.00. Staff would like to try again for Warren County Philanthropic Partnership funding, speak to local groups, and other options.  
The Board directed staff to continue looking for ways to fund the project.
  7. Distribution of strategic planning information;  
Ace Hendricks distributed the Board priorities from strategic planning.
- b. New Business:
1. Internship opportunities:  
The two unpaid internships recently added were reviewed along with the possibility of putting Alice Dembinski, a marketing and public relations major, on stipend for a portion of the summer. The Board directed Jim Priebe to discuss the possibility with Ms. Dembinski and see if an agreement on working could be reached.
  2. Fish Habitat grant:  
The draft of the revised grant was reviewed. Staff will be meeting with Iowa DNR Fisheries staff the week of June 15 to optimize habitat improvements in the grant.
- c. Other Business:
1. Logan Roberts reviewed the web report.
  2. End-of-year budget reporting and listing which budget projects are done were discussed.
  3. The date of the June 2015 meeting was discussed and kept on June 10, 2015.
- v. Financial reports were distributed.
- vi. Bills were approved and signed.
- vii. Mick Kreidler moved to adjourn, Sue Boll seconded.  
Motion carried by unanimous vote. 7:43 p.m.

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Ace Hendricks, Secretary  
Warren County Conservation Board