

# pMinutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Miller at 5:39 p.m.

Those present:

Ron Miller, President  
Ace Hendricks, Secretary  
Mick Kreidler  
Sue Boll

Absent:

Joe Gavin, Vice-President

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

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

Absent:

Guest(s): James Paul Riez, Norwalk, Iowa; Judy Hendricks, Ackworth, Iowa.

- ii. Review of strategic planning input:  
Board members prioritized and clarified their list of strategic planning priorities. This was tabled at 6:05 p.m. in order to move to the regular business agenda and resumed at 7:54 p.m.
- iii. The minutes of the April 2015 meetings were discussed. Mick Kreidler moved to approve the April 2015 minutes as corrected. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- iv. April 2015 Staff Reports were discussed and accepted as presented.
- v. Business Agenda:
- a. Old Business (Old Business 5 was taken first to accommodate public in attendance):
    1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:  
Minutes from the most recent FWCC meeting were included in the meeting packet.
    2. Cumming Drainage:  
The area continues to be too wet to work.  
David Youngblut met with County Engineer David Carroll at the site. Mr. Carroll said the county will clean out the ditches along county road G14, but that it would likely have a limited impact. David Youngblut said that staff had been discussing putting in a temporary tile to try and drain the area, and that this would be done soon.
    3. Iowa DOT North River II mitigation site report:  
The US Army Corps of Engineers cleared a pedestrian bridge plan for North River, with clearance also expected from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The Board directed Jim Priebe to open negotiations with Mr. Koethe, owner of the land between North River II and county road R63.
    4. Chuck Lenze memorial:  
The sculpture has been placed and the plaques are in production with a projected shipping date of June 5, 2015
    5. Report on North River I management plan public input meeting and action on that plan

(taken before Old Business 1–4):

The input summarized in the April 23, 2015 meeting minutes was reviewed.

Discussion centered on the area's suitability for deer hunting. There was some thought that as the habitat plantings from the DOT project matured, the area may become more suitable to archery hunting than it is currently, and that the issue could be revisited if that happens. Reluctance to closing the area to hunting was due to the difficulty that some Warren County hunters have in finding areas open to hunt.

The Attorney General's opinion on river usage was discussed. Jim Priebe said that even if a canoe access wasn't constructed, kayakers and canoeists could still use the area as a river access.

Mick Kreidler moved to accept the staff management plan for North River Greenbelt: Swamp White Oak Tract except that hunting would be removed, making the area a non-hunting area. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Discussion of methods for reducing vacant hours at Annett Nature Center:

Some seasonal hours will be used to fill gaps. The Board directed staff, now that the scope of the issue has been well defined, to move forward with a volunteer effort to cover front desk staffing needs.

b. New Business:

1. Seasonal Hires:

Jim Priebe asked the Board to approve the following as a seasonal hire for 2015:

Name	Year with WCCB	Pay rate	Effective date
Dylan Kramer	1 <sup>st</sup>	\$9.33/hour	May 16, 2015

Ace Hendricks moved to approve hiring Dylan Kramer as requested. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Discussion of public access lease on Lawson property at Annett Nature Center Park:

Blair Lawson has expressed a desire to renegotiate the access lease for the south 77 acres at the Annett Nature Center Park. The current lease runs through 2017. Jim Priebe is discussing a new lease with Mr. Lawson and will bring a proposal to the board after Mr. Lawson agrees in principle to new provisions.

3. Web report:

Logan Roberts presented some usage figures for the last month on both the WCCB web site and mobile web site.

c. Other Business:

1. Public binocular or viewing scopes for areas like the observation towers were discussed.
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.

vi. Financial reports were distributed.

vii. Bills were approved and signed.

viii. Ace Hendricks moved to adjourn, Sue Boll seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote. 8:28 p.m.

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Ace Hendricks, Secretary  
Warren County Conservation Board