

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by Secretary Hendricks at 6:12 p.m. Vice-President Gavin arrived late and allowed Secretary Hendricks to retain the Chair.

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
Mark Wilson, Natural Resources Specialist
Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II
Logan Roberts, Naturalist I

Absent:

David Youngblut, Op Coordinator

Guest(s): None

- ii. The minutes of the July 2015 meetings were discussed. Mick Kreidler moved to approve the July 2015 minutes as corrected. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- iii. June 2015 Staff Reports were discussed and accepted as presented.
- 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.

The Warren County Farm Tour will be August 30th and will include a stop at the Annett Nature Center.

The 2015 Prairie Picnic will be September 19th

2. Cumming Drainage:

The heavy July rains have kept the area unworkable.

3. Iowa DOT North River mitigation site reports:

Signs have been ordered for the Swamp White Oak Tract.

Mr. Terrill Tigner, an owner adjacent to North River II agreed in principal to a \$10,000 sale of a narrow strip that would connect North River II to County Highway R63, creating a public access to the area.

Mick Kreidler moved to authorize purchase of two acres at \$5,000 per acre from Mr. Tigner. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Chuck Lenze memorial:

Ace Hendricks, Mark Wilson, and Jim Priebe attended the memorial dedication. The Lenze family seemed very pleased with the creative efforts that went into the memorial.

5. 2015 Flooding:

The June flooding has been declared eligible for FEMA aid. Conservation facilities affected were the Summerset and Great Western Trails suffering shoulder scouring and debris pile

ups, the Annett Nature Center where a dam on a silt pond was eroded, Grant Park where trails and the pond dam were eroded, and Woodland Mounds where the road and trails were damaged.

6. Fish Habitat Grant:

Doug Guam took depth readings, which were provided to Iowa DNR Fisheries staff for analysis and recommendations.

7. Pollinator Room Project:

Karen reviewed the project, estimated to cost about \$50,000.

Memorial donation for Priscilla Gaumer and assistance from the Friends of Warren County Conservation, \$30,000 is already committed. The WCCB will purchase the materials for expanding the room, (about \$3,000) and provide the labor for that work.

Staff asked the board to authorized a crowd sourcing effort to raise the remaining funds. Sue Boll moved to authorize staff to develop and deploy a crowd sourcing campaign to raise funds for the Pollinator Room. Seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Staff also anticipates asking the board to approve a Warren County Philanthropic Partnership Grant application at a later date.

8. Strategic Plan Report:

Ace Hendricks reviewed the plan to date. He said that it should be finalized or nearly so after the next Friends of Warren County Conservation meeting and would be ready for more discussion by the Board at the September WCCB meeting. He also thanked Doug Gaumer for his work in keeping the plan in a presentable format.

b. New Business:

1. Removal of Monty Freeman from payroll:

Jim Priebe asked the board to accept Monty Freeman's letter of retirement and remove him from payroll, effective July 31, 2015.

Sue Boll moved to accept Monty Freeman's letter of retirement and remove him from payroll, effective July 31, 2015. Mick Kreidler seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. The Board reviewed the letter from Gary Valen proposing donation of a collection of Native American artifacts found in Warren County, many near Woodland Mounds.

Mick Kreidler moved to accept the donation as presented. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. Other Business:

1. Joe Gavin asked if a banner or banners could be made to hang on the shuttle trailer.

2. Ace mentioned that he is compiling a list of things that may augment strategic planning efforts.

v. Financial reports were distributed.

vi. Bills were approved and signed.

vii. Joe Gavin moved to adjourn, Sue Boll seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote. 7:27 p.m.

Ace Hendricks, Secretary

Warren County Conservation Board