

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Miller at 6:06 p.m.

Those present:

Ron Miller, President
Joe Gavin, Vice-President
Ace Hendricks, Secretary
Sue Boll

Absent:

Mick Kreidler

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): None

- ii. The minutes of the September 2015 meetings were discussed. Ace Hendricks moved to approve the September 2015 minutes as presented. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- iii. September 2015 Staff Reports were discussed and accepted. Jim Priebe noted that he had erred in producing the Naturalist II report. Karen Johlas-Szalkoski provided this report verbally.
- iv. Business Agenda:
- a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

There was no regular meeting due to the Prairie Picnic.
The Prairie Picnic netted approximately \$2,000.

2. Cumming Drainage:

The area remains unworkable. The late summer dry spell may allow some work soon.

3. Iowa DOT North River mitigation site reports:

Some boundary signs have been put up on the Swamp White Oak Tract.

Staff are waiting to receive an estimate on North River II bridge engineering from McClure Engineering, which should come this week, and to hear from DOT about the possibility of that agency helping with engineering.

Ace Hendricks asked if the Board should resume the process of acquisition from Mr. Tigner to secure access to North River II from County Road R63, since that access is important even if a bridge was never built. President Miller and the rest of the board present concurred and President Miller directed Jim Priebe to resume negotiations with Mr. Tigner.

4. 2015 Flooding:
All repairs work and debris removal is done. Most of the paperwork, which, contrary to past events, is being prepared by FEMA staff has been produced and signed. No FEMA funds have as yet arrived.
5. Fish Habitat Grant:
A draft was included in the meeting packet. Jim Priebe said he and David Youngblut still have some editing to do, but that the grant will be ready for approval by the board in November.
The Board discussed possible funding mechanisms for the project should the grant be unsuccessful.
6. Pollinator Room Project:
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski updated funding efforts for the project. To date, the Gaumer family has donated \$20,000, the Friends of Warren County Conservation have pledged \$10,000, and \$1,825 has been raised through the Razoo.com crowdsourcing effort. Staff anticipates starting work soon on the physical expansion of the exhibit area.
Johlas-Szalkowski also highlighted efforts to increase awareness of the project by reaching out to local media outlets and service clubs.
7. Strategic Plan Report:
Waiting on the Friends of Warren County Conservation to finish up their work on the plan, but some strategic plan work has been ongoing.
8. Staff FY 2017 budget proposal:
Staff presented their draft budget proposal for FY 17. Jim Priebe said he would be adding the estimated cost for bridge engineering at North River II and the Board directed that \$10,000 be added for access to North River II.
The final proposal will be on the November 2015 Conservation Board agenda for approval.

b. New Business:

1. Removal of Dylan Kramer from payroll:
Jim Priebe asked the Board to remove Dylan Kramer from payroll, effective October 9, 2015.
Ace Hendricks moved to remove the employees from payroll as requested. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
2. Request from Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards to approve resolution of support for funding of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund
Jim Priebe asked the board to approve the attached resolution in support of the Iowa Legislature funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust. The resolution is very similar to a resolution approved by the Board in February 2015 for the previous session of the Iowa Legislature.
Sue Boll moved to approve the resolution as presented. Joe Gavin seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. Other Business:

1. Logan Roberts presented the August 2015 web report.
 2. Jim Priebe asked the Board President to consider moving the November meeting from the 11th, as staff has that day off. After discussion with Board and staff, President Miller set the November 2015 meeting for the 18th.
 3. Jim Priebe noted the trail planning workshop to be held at the County Administration Building on November 4th.
 4. Ace Hendricks thanked staff for the notes from staff meetings.
 5. Ace Hendricks reminded board and staff that January will be the annual review of the Warren County Conservation Board bylaws.
- v. Financial reports were distributed.
- vi. Bills were approved and signed.
- vii. Sue Boll moved to adjourn, Joe Gavin seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote. 7:20 p.m.

Ace Hendricks, Secretary
Warren County Conservation Board