

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Miller at 6:11 p.m.

Those present:

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

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): None

- ii. The minutes of the December 2015 meetings were discussed. Mick Kreidler moved to approve the December 2015 minutes as presented. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- iii. December 2015 Staff Reports were discussed and accepted.
- iv. Business Agenda:

a. Organizational Agenda:

Chair was turned over to Director, Jim Priebe for election of officers.

1. Election of 2015 Officers:

President Miller opened the floor for nominations.

President Miller nominated the following slate:

President: Mick Kreidler

Vice-President: Sue Boll

Secretary: Joe Gavin

Motion was seconded by Sue Boll.

Hearing no discussion and no further nominations, President Miller called the question.

Motion carried by unanimous vote. Miller turned the chair over to President Kreidler.

2. Review of bylaws.

Ace Hendricks said he has researched the bylaws and discussed them with several people and has numerous changes or clarifications to propose. Hendricks illustrated a few of the proposals.

Because there had not been an opportunity to put the numerous proposals in the Board's meeting packet, President Kreidler suggested that Hendricks and Jim Priebe put together a document that shows Hendricks' proposed changes for a future meeting. President Kreidler tabled the item to be carried forward.

b. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

The minutes of the previous FWCC meeting were included in the packet.

2016 membership mailing has been sent out.

Work continues on the Pollinator Project.

Friends finished their initial work on the Strategic Plan

2. Cumming Drainage:

No change.

3. Iowa DOT North River mitigation site reports:

Chad Daniels has been set up to do the access strip survey and plans to start work in January.

3. Strategic Plan report:

Ace Hendricks asked that Jim Priebe serve as staff representative on the Strategic Plan's committee. Priebe said he was willing to do so, and current representative David Youngblut had no objection, but Priebe asked that the staff be allowed to discuss and decide at their next staff meeting, since the Board has given the authority to make that assignment to staff. Hendricks noted that the Plan designates January for delivery of an annual report. Priebe asked that it be changed to coincide with the fiscal year, as reporting would be more accurate if that was the case.

Ron Miller moved that the Strategic Plan's annual report period run concurrently with the Board's fiscal year and that said report be delivered at the regular August meeting of the WCCB. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. New Business:

1. Park and trail traffic count reports for 2015:

Doug Gaumer reviewed the data gathered from trail and traffic counters placed in WCCB areas in 2015.

d. Other Business:

1. The initial budget workshop with the Board of Supervisors, held January 11th, was reviewed.

The workshop was attended by board member Ace Hendricks; Friends board members Randy Edwards, Steve Weaver, Judy Hendricks, and Steve Dermand; all members of the Board of Supervisors, county Budget Director Stephanie Sissel, Megan Andrew, Assistant to the Board of Supervisors; and Mark Wilson and Jim Priebe from staff.

The Supervisors asked for a few clarifications on items in the budget proposal.

The request for additional staffing was discussed, including the amount of additional responsibility that Conservation staff has assumed since 1994, while staff—except from July 2007–January 2009, when Conservation did have a second Conservation Technician—has remained at the same level. The Supervisors showed a strong interest in the prospect of sharing a Conservation Technician position with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and this was discussed at length.

Friends board member Steve Dermand asked if the Annett Nature Center could be included in the County's cleaning contract. He felt this would allow full-time Conservation staff more time to focus on serving more substantive needs. All Conservation representatives at the meeting agreed, and the Supervisors said they would look into the possibility.

Conservation was the first department to have a workshop with the Supervisors for the Fiscal 2017 budget. The Supervisors said they would be providing more budget guidance and information after finishing the workshops.

2. Staff brought the John Deere 990 and its needed repairs to the attention of the board. Doug Gaumer described the issues with the tractors four-wheel drive and noted that the repairs are estimated to cost just over \$5,000. Staff described the backhoe attachment used exclusively with that tractor, why it wasn't possible to use it with a different tractor, and why four-wheel capabilities are needed for the attachment. Staff also discussed why they felt repair was a better option than trying to purchase a used machine.

Jim Priebe told the board that, while there are some funds in the equipment repair line, this will be a major expense. He also said that staff had convinced him of the need for the repair and that, absent direction from the Board otherwise, he would be instructing staff to get the tractor repaired.

3. President Kreidler directed that the web report, which has been discussed under other business for some time, be a regular item under old business.
- v. Financial reports were distributed.
 - vi. Bills were approved and signed.
 - vii. Ron Miller moved to adjourn, Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote. 7:40 p.m.

Joe Gavin, Secretary
Warren County Conservation Board