

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Kreidler at 6:01 p.m.

Those present:

Mick Kreidler, President

Sue Boll, Vice-President

Ace Hendricks

Ron Miller

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

Guest(s): Dean Yordi, Warren County Board of Supervisors

Absent:

Joe Gavin, Secretary

Absent:

David Youngblut, Op Coordinator

- ii. The minutes of the March 2016 meeting were discussed. Sue Boll moved to approve the March 2016 minutes as printed. Ace Hendricks seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- iii. February 2016 Staff Reports were discussed and accepted. Discussion included day camp registrations, Pollinator Project registrations, position sharing with the Iowa DNR, and research done after the January tobacco free parks presentation.
- iv. Guests: Supervisor None
- v. Business Agenda:
- a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

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

Preparations are under for the September 17, 2016 Prairie Picnic

Blue bird nest box kits are now available.

Arrangements for a possible free concert are being looked into.

2. Cumming Drainage:

No change.

3. Iowa DOT North River mitigation site reports:

Adjustments were made to the access route to avoid some very wet low spots. The new survey should be available soon.

4. Web report:

Attached to the meeting packet.

5. Strategic plan report:

No report.

6. Pollinator Project Report:

Fundraising has passed \$40,000. This does not include any in-kind work or materials.

b. New Business:

1. Presentation from Supervisor Dean Yordi re Veterans Memorial Parkway and possible impacts on Great Western Trail:

Supervisor Yordi discussed the Veterans Memorial Parkway project with the Board. The project, as currently envisioned would use about 1.5 miles of Great Western Trail right-of-way in its alignment. He stated that, while the project has not entered formal planning, he wanted to keep the Conservation Board informed and involved in the process.

The project would include a multi-use path separate from the roadway that would preserve the continuity of the Great Western Trail. It would be built to current federal trail standards, but details on the amount of separation of the trail from the road surface are not currently available. Supervisor Yordi also said that the right-of-way, after it leaves the Great Western Trail would include grading and space for extending the trail, if not and a trail extension as part of the project.

Conservation Board members and staff expressed concerns about placing the trail too close to the roadway and urged that the separation be as great as possible.

Other considerations the Conservation Board felt would be positive were having a written agreement in principal before formal planning begins and maximizing the wildlife value of the new right-of-way since developing the Parkway will involve removing the existing trailside habitats. Prairie was suggested as a possible vegetative cover.

2. 2016 seasonal hires:

Staff requested that the following be approved as seasonal hires, effective March 9, 2016. Initially, these seasonals will be helping with prescribed burns.

Name	Year	Wage
Monty Freeman	17th	\$12.91/hour
Sean Seymour	6th	10.33/hour
Nick Reinert	5th	10.28/hour
Jake McClain	2nd	10.13/hour
Jordan Perry	1st	9.63/hour

Ron Miller moved to approve as requested. Ace Hendricks seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. Other Business:

1. Staff reported on the possibility of another DOT wetland mitigation site in northern Warren County.
2. Preparation of contractor document for quotes on the Hickory Hills Fish Habitat project will be prepared soon.
3. The contractor for cleaning county buildings will, on April 14, start a once weekly cleaning of the Annett Nature Center. Cleaning will be done on Thursday evenings.

vi. Financial reports were distributed.

vii. Bills were approved and signed.

viii. Ron Miller moved to adjourn, Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote. 7:23 p.m.

Joe Gavin, Secretary

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