

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Kreidler at 6:02 p.m.

Those present:

Mick Kreidler, President

Joe Gavin, Secretary

Ace Hendricks

Ron Miller

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Jim Priebe, Director

David Youngblut, Operations Coordinator

Mark Wilson, Natural Resource Specialist

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II

Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician

Tyler Seuferer, Conservation Technician

Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I

Guest(s): Dean Yordi, Warren County Board of Supervisors; Holly Reid, Shive Hattery; Brian Hemaseth, City of West Des Moines; Gary and Peg Hutchison, New Virginia.

New Business item 1 was taken prior to the rest of the meeting agenda for the convenience of guests.

Absent:

Sue Boll, Vice-President

Absent:

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the August 2017 WCCB meeting were reviewed. Ron Miller moved to accept the August 2017 minutes as corrected. Seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by 4–0 vote (Hendricks did not vote).

- iii. Staff reports for August 2017 were filed. Mick Kreidler asked Doug Gaumer about his map work. Gaumer said it had been less than 20 hours over two years.

New Business item 4 was taken prior to the rest of the meeting agenda for the convenience of guests.

- iv. Business Agenda:

a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

Friends discussed and agreed to work on a prospective agreement to act as repository for the Microsoft trail funds, stating they would like to discuss the final document with a representative of the State Auditors Office to make sure legal requirements are met.

Prairie Picnic will be held September 16, 2017.

2. Project reports, Grant Park campground:

The pit toilet materials should be delivered next week. Fire ring pads, registration posts, and the posts for the bulletin board have been constructed.

3. Discussion of repository for Great Western Trail funds:

Discussed under Friends of Warren County Conservaiton

b. New Business:

1. Great Western Trail(GWT)/Veterans Parkway(VP) water quality presentation, possible request for action:

Brian Hemaseth introduced Holly Reid to talk about a possible wetland project for Veterans Parkway.

Ms. Reid reviewed the attached drawings showing a possible three-acre wetland between the GWT and VP at the western end of the area where the two run parallel. This would be part of the Parkway project and West Des Moines would bear the costs. The site would include sidewalk access to future development and the GWT.

Future maintenance of the site, if developed, will need to be settled.

Mr. Hemaseth, addressing the amount of water that would come in to the wetland, stressed that developers are held to stringent standards regarding runoff.

Mr. Hemaseth also noted that there would be a need for some drainage work and temporary easements at crossing sites. He asked to continue working with Jim Priebe and David Youngblut on the details.

Mick Kreidler expressed concern with visibility in the area in question, including the need for a light buffer from headlights. Mr. Hemaseth said that the trail and the road will likely be at slightly different elevations, and that the density of the undergrowth in the area should help.

2. Presentation of FY 2017 annual report:

Several corrections were made. The report will be on the October 2017 agenda

3. Consider 28E agreement with Iowa Department of Transportation for management of wetland mitigation site, possible action:

The County Attorney has no objections to the language in the document. The Board President's name needs to be changed.

4. Nature Conservancy proposal for WCCB to take over management of Medora Prairie:

The proposed agreement from the Nature Conservancy was reviewed. A concern was expressed about the possible cost of lespeza control.

Much of the area has existing or potential high-quality prairie remnants.

Gary Hutchison, a neighbor to the area, expressed concerns about trespassers and the lack of a boundary fence. He stated he would prefer, if the WCCB were to accept the area, that hunting be prohibited.

Further concerns about the cost of signage and fencing were expressed.

5. Consider parcel offered by Iowa Department of Transportation:

Iowa DOT is looking to sell a small out lot along Highway 92. While paying market value for the area did not seem attractive to the Board, Ace Hendricks suggested that the site could be made into a demonstration pollinator plot if it were given to the WCCB.

6. Removal of seasonal employees from payroll:

Staff requested that the following seasonal employees be removed from payroll, effective September 13, 2017: Mitchell Neeson, Nick Reinert, Maddy May, and Nate Sowers.

Ron Miller moved to remove the seasonal employees as requested. Seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. Other Business:

1. President Kreidler requested cost and time estimates for trail map work.

- v. Financial reports were distributed.
- vi. Bills were approved and signed.
- vii. Ron Miller moved to adjourn. Seconded by Sue Boll. Motion carried by unanimous vote at 7:57 p.m.

Joe Gavin, Secretary
Warren County Conservation Board