

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Kreidler at 6:00 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

Mick Kreidler, President

Sue Boll, Vice-President

Joe Gavin, Secretary

Ace Hendricks

Ron Miller

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Absent:

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): Bill Lorenz, Des Moines, Iowa; Saraleigh Monro, Des Moines, Iowa; Kari Carney, Norwalk, Iowa.

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

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the September 2017 WCCB meeting were reviewed. Sue Boll moved to accept the August 2017 minutes as printed. Seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- iii. Staff reports for September 2017 were filed. Promoting programing in area papers and with local Chambers of Commerce were discussed. Compensation time was discussed. The value of staff attending board meetings was discussed. The consensus was that, even though staff attendance can cause some comp time challenges, it is useful for both board and staff that staff be in attendance.

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

- iv. Business Agenda:

As all three members of the public were in attendance to discuss the same, non-agenda matter, President Kreidler moved Other Business item 1 before Minutes, Reports, and other Business items.

- a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

112 people attended the Prairie Picnic. Final fund-raising numbers are not yet available.

2. Presentation of FY 2017 annual report:

Ace Hendricks moved to accept the FY 2017 annual report as presented. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Questions were raised about the date on the document, the language regarding a plaque, the required annual report, fire breaks, the possibility of charging fees for use of the area, control

of noxious weeds, property taxes, liens, and grazing management. The agreement was tabled for further revision.

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

The sewer line easement through the property was discussed, as was the level C road on the east side of the property were discussed. President Kreidler directed staff to ask the Iowa Department of Transportation to prepare final documents.

b. New Business:

1. Presentation of staff proposal for Fiscal 2018–19 budget:

The Board asked for the key to the color codes in the budget proposal

2. Removal of seasonal employees from payroll:

Staff asked the Board to remove John Fensterman from payroll, effective October 13, 2017. Sue Boll moved to remove Fensterman as requested. Joe Gavin seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. Other Business:

1. Bill Lorenz, of Des Moines, Iowa, addressed his concerns with the design of the intersections between the Great Western Trail and the roads approaching their own intersections with Veterans Parkway. He stated he feels that forcing the trail crossing into the pedestrian crossing will cause more safety problems than it solves, specifically the need to look in multiple directions prior to crossing and that the length of the crossing on pavement will be longer at the corner. Mr. Lorenz cited a mid-section crossing on the Raccoon River Valley trail as a safe mid-block crossing.

Questions were asked about what happens to the current right-of-way if the intersections is moved (it remains in place), the costs involved (West Des Moines will be the costs of moving the intersection if is done as part of the Veterans Parkway project), and what signage will be in place.

Jim Priebe said that staff feels that West Des Moines has much more experience dealing with intersection safety in situations like this and that their assessment and approach is probably the best. Staff also stressed that these intersections are not actually mid-block, but will be approximately 70 feet from the corner.

Kari Carney, of Norwalk, cited visibility, slowing traffic, and reduced exposure to the road as the keys for crossing safety. She shared a California study with the board. President Kreidler asked staff to scan and email the study.

President Kreidler placed Great Western Trail crossings on the November 2017 WCCB agenda.

v. Financial reports were distributed.

vi. Bills were approved and signed.

vii. Sue Boll moved to adjourn. Seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote at 8:00 p.m.

Joe Gavin, Secretary

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