

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 14 2018, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Boll at 6:01 p.m.

Those present:

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

Absent:

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Jim Priebe, Director
David Youngblut, Op Coordinator
Mark Wilson, Natural Resources Specialist
Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician
Tyler Seuferer, Conservation Technician

Absent:

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II
Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I

Guest(s): Toby Richard, Peg Hutchison, and Garry Hutchison, all of New Virginia, Iowa.

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the February 2018 WCCB meeting were reviewed. Mick Kreidler moved to accept the February 2018 minutes as corrected. Second by Ron Miller. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- iii. Staff reports for February 2018 were noted. Scheduling a ribbon cutting of the Grant Park campground and the location for the Hickory Hills campground toilet were discussed.

- iv. Business Agenda:

- a. Old Business:

1. Management/Transfer agreement for Medora Prairie with The Nature Conservancy:

- a. consider approval

Jim Priebe and David Youngblut reviewed the issues brought up at the October 2017 WCCB meeting that were recently discussed with Josh Spies of The Nature Conservancy, including the plaque mentioned in the draft agreement, fencing, and noxious weed control. Priebe said he felt the concerns of the Board had been addressed and that the agreement in the March 2018 meeting packet was ready for Board consideration. President Boll then invited public comment.

Toby Richard, a neighbor of the property, said that the land was sold to The Nature Conservancy with the understanding that it would be a no hunting area, though this was not stated in sale documents. He said he would prefer it stay a no hunting area.

Garry and Peg Hutchison, also neighbors, stated their agreement to Mr. Richard's

statements, and said they brought the same sentiment from Brad Beaner, another neighbor. Mr. Hutchison described the no hunting arrangement as a “handshake deal.” The neighbors in attendance stated that if the area was opened to hunting, they would request fencing on their boundaries, understanding that the fence would be a right-hand rule arrangement.

After discussion, Ron Miller moved to approve the agreement with The Nature Conservancy and authorize the President to sign. Ace Hendricks seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- a. Consider area rules for Medora Prairie:

The park and wildlife area rules included in the meeting packet were discussed. President Boll tabled the item and carried it over to the April 2018 meeting.

2. Friends of Warren County Conservation Report:

Minutes from the February 2018 FWCC meeting were attached. Work on the FWCC bylaws is ongoing.

3. Update on donation project:

Concerns included future use, access points for the park for non-rental users, the primary reasons for the project, and covering the \$55,000 shortfall on the projected non-labor budget. Discussions centered around ways to cover the funding needs.

Jim Priebe said the primary reason for the project was to bring people into the park, whether it was for programming that would be enhanced by having another venue and more scheduling flexibility or visitors that came for rental events. The budget shortfall could be addressed by seeking grants, additional donations, requesting FWCC participation, or by looking for ways to cut the project back that did not too greatly affect its utility.

Ace Hendricks stated that until we have the additional monies needed, he cannot support the idea.

New Business:

1. Seasonal hiring:

Staff requested the Board approve hiring Kevin Brown, effective March 12, 2018 at \$10.84/hour. Joe Gavin moved to approve as requested. Mick Kreidler seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- v. Financial reports were distributed.

- vi. Bills were approved and signed.

- vii. Joe Gavin moved to adjourn. Mick Kreidler Seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote at 7:25 p.m.

Ron Miller, Secretary

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