

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 9 2018, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Boll at 6:03 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  
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II  
Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I  
Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician

Absent:

Mark Wilson, Natural Resources Specialist  
Tyler Seuferer, Conservation Technician

Guest(s): Karl Arnold, Dino Goode, and Jim Keller of the Orilla Land Company.

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the April 2018 WCCB meeting were reviewed. Joe Gavin moved to accept the April 2018 minutes as printed. Second by Mick Kreidler. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- iii. Staff reports for April 2018 were noted.

- iv. Business Agenda:

- a. Old Business (Item 4 was taken before Item 3):

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation Report:

The Osprey 5K had 55 participants.

The fund-holding agreement regarding Great Western Trail funds was discussed at length at the last FWCC board meeting. The changes to the draft agreement requested by the FWCC Board were reviewed at this time.

The Native Plant sale will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

2. Consider acquisition project/Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund grant application:  
Staff asked the Board to approve attached grant application for Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds to allow the WCCB to purchase 80-acres that bridge the gap between Rolling Thunder Prairie and Medora Prairie. Warren County Pheasants Forever has stated a strong interest in helping with the county matching funds for the grant and the Board has enough in its REAP account to cover the 25% cost share.

Jim Priebe told the Board that, should they choose to apply for the grant, they could proceed in one of two ways:

1. Submit the grant as is and wait for the late summer review. If the grant is funded, the Board could then sign a purchase agreement with the seller. If the grant is not funded, the Board has no financial obligations to fulfill. The seller is free during this time to sell to another buyer.
2. Using the already approved waiver of retroactivity, the Board could negotiate a price and sign a purchase agreement with the seller and purchase the property, still maintaining eligibility for grant funding. If the grant is not funded, the Board would be responsible for the complete purchase price rather than the 25% matching funds required by the WHSF grant. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has stated willingness to provide interim funding for the project.

Concerns were expressed by Board Members about paying over appraised value for the land (only costs up to appraised value are eligible for grant funding), and about agreeing to purchase and potentially not receiving grant funding. Staff noted they felt the project is strong and would be competitive for funding, but nothing is guaranteed by applying.

Ron Miller moved to apply for Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds as requested at a total cost of \$388,000.00, without entering into a purchase agreement with the seller prior to the grant review process. Motion seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Consider agreement with FWCC for holding Great Western Trail fund:

The agreement was reviewed in the FWCC report, Old Business item 1.

Mick Kreidler moved to approve the attached agreement and authorize the President to sign. Motion seconded by Ace Hendricks. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- b. New Business (Item 1 was taken all other business agenda items):

1. Request from Orilla Land Company re. boundary between Great Western Trail and OLC land:

Karl Arnold presented the attached requests for a planting between the Orilla Chicken Company restaurant and the Great Western Trail, using part of the trail right-of-way for the planting, and for sidewalk access to the Great Western along Orilla Road.

Ace Hendricks and others asked about the possibility of using native plants rather than the specified species. Mr. Arnold said the specific type of plants was not important to the restaurant, but this should probably be checked with West Des Moines zoning.

Another suggestion made was to consider a fall planting for better survival rates for the trees. Ace Hendricks moved allow a 10-foot encroachment into the Great Western Trail right-of-way along the trail's boundary with the Orilla Chicken Company for the purpose of establishing a tree and shrub border, contingent upon the use of native plant material acceptable to Warren County Conservation Board staff. Motion seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Consider butterfly survey intern funding:

President Boll requested that the Board follow the lead of the FWCC Board and again support the butterfly survey by funding a \$500 internship.

Doug Gaumer noted that, at this date, interns will be hard to find for 2018.

Board discussion centered on the value of volunteer and intern collected data as opposed to professionally collected data, making butterfly data collection and program participation a long-term goal, and looking at how other counties have done this type of data collection with all-volunteer forces.

President Boll asked the Naturalist staff to check with other counties that have been successful in recruiting all-volunteer forces and asked Board Members to keep an open mind on the issue. She then tabled the matter.

c. Other Business:

1. President Boll moved the June 2018 meeting to June 20<sup>th</sup> due to scheduling conflicts.

v. Financial reports were distributed.

vi. Bills were approved and signed.

vii. Mick Kreidler moved to adjourn. Ron Miller Seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote at 8:01 p.m.

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Ron Miller, Secretary

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