

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 20 2018, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th 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
Mick Kreidler

Absent:

Ace Hendricks

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Jim Priebe, Director
David Youngblut, Op Coordinator
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II
Mark Wilson, Natural Resources Specialist
Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I
Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician
Tyler Seuferer, Conservation Technician

Absent:

Guest(s): Zac Crane, Cumming Hometown Pride.

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the May 2018 WCCB meeting were reviewed. Ron Miller moved to accept the May 2018 minutes as printed. Second by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- iii. Staff reports for May 2018 were noted.

- iv. Business Agenda:

- a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation Report:

Minutes attached.

Peg Hutchison has joined the FWCC Board.

The FWCC is now holding the Great Western Trail funds from Microsoft.

The FWCC sponsored Kids Fish Day and Wild Women of the Woods.

2. Wildlife Habitat Grant application:

Staff asked the Board to take another look at the Habitat Stamp Grant application and the decision to not utilize the waiver of retroactivity from the Iowa DNR to purchase the property prior to grant review. The risks are still the same: using the waiver could result in having to pay the entire purchase price without grant assistance, while waiting for grant review could result in losing the opportunity to purchase a piece of quality habitat in a strategically important location.

The Board expressed the previously stated concern of not receiving grant funds and obligating any available land purchase fund for a long term but understood that value of the property is more than just the quality of the piece on its own. The Board instructed staff to continue investigating possibilities and to keep them informed.

3. Discussion of possible solar energy production at ANC:

Staff shared their ideas (attached) on possible sites for the new lodge. While the original site (number 1) is adequate, two sites with better views have been put forward. The Board instructed staff to work on site number 3 and see if it was feasible.

Ron Miller left the meeting at this point.

b. New Business (Item 2 was taken all other business agenda items):

1. Request from West Des Moines re. water main easement at Orilla Road:

The request was attached to the meeting packet.

Joe Gavin moved to approve the request and authorize the President to sign. Sue Boll seconded. Motion carried 2-1 (Aye: Gavin, Boll. Nay: Kreidler).

2. Request to improve trail access from Cumming Hometown Pride:

Zac Crane from Cumming Hometown Pride spoke to the Board about paving the existing gravel trail access to the Great Western Trail that uses the alley between Cumming Tap and the Legion Hall.

The Board was interested in cooperating. Board members made it clear that the long-term ownership and maintenance responsibilities would need to be spelled out in any agreement, and that the Board would prefer that the City hold ultimate maintenance responsibility and ownership for anything outside of the right-of-way. Pavement would need to be at least 8-foot wide and culverts would need to be adequately sized. Mr. Crane said Cumming Hometown Pride has applied for a grant to help and he would be contacting the Board again after the grant process is finished.

3. Discussion of possible solar energy production at ANC:

Doug Gaumer reviewed the attached proposal. The Board requested a presentation from the Company, at the July meeting if possible.

c. Other Business:

1. Jim Priebe informed the board about a traffic accident that involved four WCCB seasonal employees. There were no injuries and WCCB staff were not at fault in the incident.

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 7:33 p.m.

Ron Miller, Secretary

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