

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Boll at 6:05 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

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

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Absent:

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

David Youngblut, Op Coordinator

Guest(s): Brannon Hilton, Indianola; Joe Dun, Carlisle.

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

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

- iii. Staff reports for July 2018 were noted. President Boll complimented the work on the newsletter.

- iv. Business Agenda:

a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation Report:

Minutes attached.

Prairie Picnic planning for September 15, 2018.

FWCC is awarding two \$1,000 scholarships and hopes to make this an annual occurrence.

Looking in to sponsoring a trail run at the Annett Nature Center Park in the fall of 2019.

Ace Hendricks asked about requesting FWCC to fund or partially fund the proposed small shelter at Lester Pond. The shelter's primary use would be as a facility for field trips and programs. President Boll is to discuss this at the next FWCC meeting.

2. Solar energy updates:

Two companies have been consulted and a third is scheduled. When all data is in, a comparison will be developed for the Board's consideration.

3. Wildlife Habitat Grant application update:

The Rolling Thunder addition was fully funded. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has signed an offer at the Board's approved price and the appraisal has been ordered. Closing is set for the end of September, with INHF paying the owner and the WCCB paying INHF.

4. Discussion of Annett Nature Center lodge siting:

David and Jim have been working with the Lawsons and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to find a way to use the proposed site on the Lawson property and protect the Board's infrastructure investment. An appraisal of the property has been ordered so that all options can be explored.

b. New Business:

1. North River Greenbelt: Tract II & Rolling Thunder Prairie acquisition; rules proposal:

Jim Priebe requested that the Board set rules for North River II tract of the North River Greenbelt (area is as yet unnamed) and the Sereg addition to Rolling Thunder Prairie. He proposed adopting the same rules the WCCB's other wildlife areas (Rolling Thunder Prairie, Woodland Mounds Preserve, Bank Swallow Bend, and Blue Flag Marsh).

Board members requested to alter the last line of item 12 (removing the references to horses on the roadway), remove item 9 (res fire rings).

Mick Kreidler moved to accept the rules as altered. Ace Hendricks seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Discussion of land adjacent to Bank Swallow Bend being sold 31 August, 2018:

This item was taken before other business items for the convenience of attending citizens.

Ten acres adjacent to Bank Swallow Bend will be auctioned on August 31, 2018. Staff asked the Board to consider bidding on the property.

Brannon Hilton, who owns 10 acres west of the tract to be auctioned, attended the meeting and stated his intention to bid on the land. He asked the board to consider that this tract would have private land on three sides and that there would be a high potential for trespassing if purchased for public use.

The Board discussed the value of the ten acres from a public standpoint, including the need for public hunting area and the nature of the tight property boundaries.

Jim Priebe agreed that the Board's and Mr. Hilton's concerns had merit, but opportunities to purchase properties adjacent to existing areas were important to consider. He said he felt the board should bid on the property. He also said that, if the Board were to decide to bid, they should set a maximum bid in a closed session.

Mick Kreidler said she felt the WCCB should pursue the tract and moved to authorize bidding on the property. Ace Hendricks seconded. Motion passed on 4-0 vote (Joe Gavin abstained).

President Boll tabled further discussion until later in the meeting.

After all other business was conducted, Ron Miller moved to enter closed session. Ace Hendricks seconded.

Jim Priebe said that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has estimated the value of the property at \$15,000-22,500. Several Board members noted that they did not think Warren County land would sell at a higher price.

Mick Kreidler moved to bid up to \$30,000 for the property. After discussion, the motion died for lack of a second.

Ron miller moved to bid up to \$40,000 for the property. Ace Hendricks seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

President Boll declared the meeting back into open session.

c. Other Business:

1. This item was discussed after New Business 2 was tabled and before the meeting moved back to Old Business.

Joe Dunn of Carlisle attended to discuss some of the rural road crossings and field entrances on the Summerset Trail. His concern is about bicyclists that do not slow down, and often don't look, before entering crossing areas. His concern is about bicyclists that do not slow down, and often don't look, before entering crossing areas.

The Board thanked Mr. Dunn for his concerns and talked about possibilities for signing crossings to increase safety. Solar powered flashing lights were discussed, along with concerns about cost vs. increased safety (individual solar signs are available in the \$1,750–2,000 range, more if they are pedestrian activated—2–4 signs would be needed per crossing). After the discussion, the meeting moved back to Old Business.

- 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 7:58 p.m.

Ron Miller, Secretary
Warren County Conservation Board