

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Boll at 5:56 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

Sue Boll, President
Joe Gavin, Vice-President
Ron Miller, Secretary
Ace Hendricks
Mark Kickbush

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Absent:

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

Guest(s): Brian Hemaseth, City of West Des Moines
Jason Waugh, MidAmerican Energy
Tyler Gartenberg, MidAmerican Energy
Nichoel Church, Snyder & Associates

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the October 2019 Warren County Conservation Board meeting were reviewed. Miller moved to approve minutes as printed. Second by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- iii. Staff reports for the October 2019 were reviewed.

Summerset Trail Middle River Bridge repairs are to begin soon. Herberger has agreed to be flexible in their billing schedule and the Board of Supervisors will help with cash flow.

Annett Nature Center Lodge floor has been poured and the trusses has been delivered. Windows (except one) have been delivered to the vendor and framing materials will be ordered this week.

- iv. Business Agenda: New Business 1 and New Business 3 were taken first, out of order, for the convenience of attending guests.

- a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:
Minutes of the October meeting were attached.
The Iowa Trail Run held at the Annett Nature Center was a success and will be held again.
2. Update on repairs to Middle River bridge on Summerset Trail: discussed in reports.

b. New Business:

1. Request from Nichoel Church, Snyder & Associates, for WCCB to hold wetland mitigation easement:

Ms. Church described a wetland mitigation bank in northeast Warren County. The project, which is a private project, requires a public entity to hold the easement. The easement does not require monetary or time commitments on the part the holding entity. County Conservation Board Responsibilities would be that if the wetland mitigation bank was deemed as failing, the WCCB would have to restore the wetland with funds provided by an escrow account. Ms. Church said this has not happened with any of the several mitigation banks Snyder & Associates have worked with. The Conservation Board will not have any maintenance or ownerships unless the mitigation bank fails. Snyder & Associates is responsible for monitoring the mitigation bank.

Ace Hendricks moved to approve cooperating with Snyder & Associates on the wetland mitigation bank. Motion seconded by Ron Miller. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Discussion, action, on personnel changes

Jim Priebe asked the Board to remove Monty Freeman from payroll, effective August 30, 2019, and to approve the resignation of Conservation Technician Doug Gaumer, effective November 1, 2019.

President Boll read a statement thanking Mr. Gaumer for his dedication and creativity in his service to the Board and wished him well in future endeavors.

Ron Miller moved to approve the personnel changes as requested. Motion seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion Carried by unanimous vote.

3. Discussion, action on MidAmerican line maintenance easement:

Jason Waugh and Tyler Gartenberg from MidAmerican Energy reviewed the clearing project they carried out on the Great Western Trail and Veterans Parkway and requested the Board approve the permanent maintenance easement for the 1.7 miles of trail that runs parallel to the MidAmerican power lines.

Mark Kickbush moved to approve the easement and authorize the Board President to sign. Motion seconded by Ace Hendricks. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Waugh and Mr. Gartenberg also delivered the \$25,000 MidAmerican committed for establishing low-growth vegetation along the cleared easement area.

4. FY 2021 budget discussion, possible action:

After review, Ace Hendricks moved to approve the budget proposal. Motion seconded by Ron Miller. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. FY 2019 annual report discussion, possible action:

Tabled until December.

c. Other Business:

President Boll changed the time for the December meeting to 5:00 p.m.

- v. Financial reports were distributed.
- vi. Bills were approved and signed.
- vii. Ron Miller moved to adjourn. Motion seconded Joe Gavin.
Motion carried by unanimous vote at 6:47 p.m.

Ron Miller, Secretary
Warren County Conservation Board