

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Kreidler at 6:00 p.m.

Those present:

Mick Kreidler, President

Sue Boll, Vice-President

Joe Gavin, Secretary

Ace Hendricks

Absent:

Ron Miller

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Jim Priebe, Director

David Youngblut, Operations Coordinator

Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician

Tyler Seufferer, Conservation Technician

Absent:

Mark Wilson, Natural Resource Specialist

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II

Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I

Guest(s): Bill Lorenz, Des Moines, Iowa; Saraleigh Monroe, Des Moines, Iowa;

Brian Hemaseth, City of West Des Moines.

Old Business item 1 was taken prior to the rest of the meeting agenda for the convenience of guests.

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the October 2017 WCCB meeting were reviewed. Joe Gavin moved to accept the August 2017 minutes as printed. Seconded by Sue Boll. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- iii. Staff reports for October 2017 were filed.

- iv. Business Agenda:

a. Old Business:

1. Discussion, possible action on Great Western Trail crossings near Veterans Parkway:

Brian Hemaseth, City of West Des Moines, reviewed West Des Moines' proposal for the design of where the Great Western Trail crosses roads near the intersection of those roads with Veterans Parkway. He highlighted:

It is possible that Adams Street will be made into a cul-de-sac as part of the project rather than this occurring at a later date. This will be determined later.

The County Line Road crossing will not be changed as part of the project, unless this road is also made into a cul-de-sac immediately.

Where the Great Western Trail runs parallel to Veterans Parkway, it is approximately 70 feet from the center line of the trail to the closest curb of the parkway.

Conservation staff, acknowledging that West Des Moines has far more experience with crossings, recommends going with West Des Moines' proposal.

President Kreidler asked if there would be signage on Veterans Parkway to inform motorists of the adjacent trail crossings. Mr. Hemaseth said the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is used to determine what signage is allowable and that he would have to check. Board Member Sue Boll agreed with President Kreidler that such signage could be very beneficial.

Bill Lorenz stated he felt moving the crossing closer to the road intersections with Veterans Parkway was "manufacturing a conflict and doubling the length of trail in the crossing."

Saraleigh Monroe added that speed is not necessary for a vehicle to harm a bicyclist or pedestrian.

Jim Priebe noted that Mr. Lorenz had spoken of mid-block crossings and safe designs for them, but that these intersections would not be mid-block even if left in their current arrangement, but only 70 feet from the intersection.

Doug Gaumer asked about the feasibility of make the crossings 90° to the roads approaching Veterans Parkway. Mr. Lorenz noted that several High Trestle crossings have been made into 90° crossings. Gaumer also asked about the possibility of a pedestrian flasher. Mr. Hemaseth noted these would only be possible at mid-block crossings.

Board Member Joe Gavin stated he felt going contrary to expert advice increases liability.

Sue Boll moved to accept West Des Moines' recommendations to move up to 3 intersections (Orilla Road, Adams Street, 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue) close to Veterans Parkway for crossings with eventual traffic control lights. Motion seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by 3–1 vote. Aye: Boll, Gavin, Hendricks. Nay: Kreidler.

2. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

Minutes of October 2017 FWCC meeting attached.

3. Presentation of staff proposal for Fiscal 2018–19 budget, adjustment or acceptance:

Jim Priebe highlighted the changes in the attached staff proposal since the October WCCB meeting, including the addition of \$30,000 to augment an anticipated \$50,000 donation for a second pavilion at the Annett Nature Center.

Board Member Ace Hendricks stressed the need to have a prepared list of projects when donors approach the Board. Staff and Board Members agreed with the concept, and staff are beginning to work on updates to area plans which can include some of these potential projects.

Sue Boll Moved to accept the staff budget proposal for Fiscal 2019. Motion seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

No new information on old business agenda items 4 and 5.

b. New Business:

No new business.

c. Other Business:

1. Staff asked the Board to consider moving the December 13, 2017 Board Meeting to 5:30 p.m. and having the pot luck at 6:30 p.m., after the meeting. President Kreidler directed that this be done.

v. Financial reports were distributed.

vi. Bills were approved and signed.

vii. Sue Boll moved to adjourn. Seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote at 8:07 p.m.

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Joe Gavin, Secretary

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