

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 19 2018, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Boll at 6:01 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

Sue Boll, President  
Joe Gavin, Vice-President  
Ron Miller, Secretary  
Ace Hendricks (via phone)  
Mick Kreidler

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  
Doug Gaumer, Conservation Technician  
Tyler Seuferer, Conservation Technician

Guest(s): Toby Richard, Peg Hutchison, and Gary Hutchison, all of New Virginia, Iowa; Brian Hemaseth, City of West Des Moines; Dorrance Brezina, Urbandale.

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

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

- iii. Staff reports for March 2018 were noted. Continued monitoring of Veterans Parkway construction, geocaching, and IACCB district meetings were discussed.

- iv. Business Agenda:

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

1. Management/Transfer agreement for Medora Prairie with The Nature Conservancy—  
consider area rules:

Toby Richard and Gary and Peg Hutchison reiterated their desire the area remain refuge. Joe Gavin said maintaining the rules as the Nature Conservancy had them was good with him. Mick Kreidler said she would like to honor the intent of the Beaner's when they sold the property to the Conservancy. Ron Miller noted mixed feelings, saying that he did not doubt the Beaner's intent, but would have preferred that they had been recorded. He noted that a decision at this meeting could be changed by future boards. Sue Boll agreed with Kreidler. Jim Priebe said he feels that a public area should be open to hunting unless there is a compelling reason for it to be refuge. He emphasized that this is a Board decision. He said

that if the Board chooses to close the area to hunting, the rules for WCCB wildlife areas could be used, switching the no hunting section from the park rules for the hunting section of the wildlife areas.

Mick Kreidler moved to adopt the rules for Rolling Thunder Prairie for Medora Prairie, except that Item 11 from the Annett Nature Center Rules (no hunting) will be substituted for Item 9 (hunting). Seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Friends of Warren County Conservation Report:

Minutes from the March 2018 FWCC meeting were attached. Work on the FWCC bylaws and holding the Great Western Trail funds for the WCCB is ongoing.

3. Donation project, consider action on additional donation:

Jim Priebe reviewed Mrs. Geyer's decision to increase her donation to \$205,000 to cover the projected material and site development costs. He requested that the Board approve and sign the attached acknowledgement of donation, requested by Mrs. Geyer and already signed by her.

Mick Kreidler stated she would prefer an expansion to the nature center. Sue Boll said she it was unfortunate more concepts were not presented (the lodge/pavilion and a naturescape play area were the two projects shown to Mrs. Geyer), but this project will provide more space for the naturalists to use. Ron Miller and Joe Gavin both stated strong support for accepting the donation.

Joe Gavin moved to accept Mrs. Geyer's donation and authorize the President to sign the acknowledgement. Ron Miller seconded. Motion carried by 3-2 vote. Aye: Gavin, Miller Boll. Nay: Hendricks, Kreidler.

Ace Hendricks stated that he wanted his vote to reflect that he approved of the acceptance of donations but he does not approve the project as it has been presented.

4. Review agreement with FWCC for holding Great Western Trail funds, possible action:

The attached agreement was reviewed. Ron Miller moved to approve and authorize the President to sign. Mick Kreidler seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

New Business (Item 2 was taken before Item 3):

1. Seasonal hiring:

Staff requested that the following seasonal hires be approved, effective April 21, 2018:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>
Monty Freeman	19th	\$13.52
Nick Reinert	7th	10.84
Barry Haglan	2nd	10.50
Ryan Niedermayer	1st	10.00
Jonathan Scott	1st	10.00
Paige Loudenslager	1st	10.00
Bailey Timm	1st	10.00

Mick Kriedler Moved to approve the seasonal hires as requested. Joe Gavin seconded. Motion carried by unanimous 4-0 vote (Hendricks no longer attending electronically).

2. Consider requests from West Des Moines,
  - a. temporary easement for Veterans Parkway construction,
  - b. easement to allow sewer line to be bored beneath the Great Western Trail:

Brian Hemaseth of West Des Moines reviewed the attached temporary construction easement and sanitary sewer easement, asking the board to approve them. The Board discussed the need for the easements and why they had not been handled with previous documents with Mr. Hemaseth. Mr. Brezina encouraged the Board to cooperate with West Des Moines on the project.

Ron Miller moved to approve both easements and authorize the President to sign once West Des Moines provides forms with the proper signature lines. Joe Gavin seconded. Motion carried by 4–0 vote (Kreidler abstained).

Mr. Hemaseth informed the Board that Veterans Parkway in the area of the Great Western Trail, should be complete by Thanksgiving.

3. Discuss possible acquisition project

Eighty acres adjacent to both Rolling Thunder Prairie and Medora Prairie has come up for sale. The property has good diversity and staff requested permission to prepare a Habitat Stamp Grant application. Jim Priebe told the Board that it may be necessary to finalize purchase prior to grant review if the sellers are insistent (a grant can still be received if a waiver is obtained from the Iowa DNR prior to negotiations). The Board instructed staff to prepare the grant.

4. Jim Priebe requested that the Board remove Naturalist I Kelsey Longnecker from probationary status and move her from Grade 10, Step 3 to Grade 10, step 4 on the pay matrix, effective March 24, 2018.

Mick Kreidler moved to approve. Joe Gavin seconded. Motion carried by 4–0 vote.

- v. Financial reports were distributed.
- vi. Bills were approved and signed.
- vii. Ron Miller moved to adjourn. Mick Kreidler Seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote at 7:21 p.m.

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Ron Miller, Secretary  
Warren County Conservation Board