

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by President Boll at 6:00 p.m.

Those present:

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

Absent:

Ron Miller, Secretary

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

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

Absent:

Guest(s): Brian Hemaseth, City of West Des Moines
Jason Waugh, MidAmerican Energy
Matt Bootier, Davey Resource Group
Brandon Long, Churchville Little League
Tyler Corty, Churchville Little League

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the September 2019 Warren County Conservation Board meeting were reviewed. Ace Hendricks moved to approve minutes as printed. Second by Mark Kickbush. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

- iv. Business Agenda:

- a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:
No September FWCC meeting held.
96 attended the Prairie Picnic.

- b. New Business:

1. Discuss needed repairs to Middle River bridge on Summerset Trail:
The City of Indianola responded to a request to consider helping with the cost of bridge repair, though they did not commit to any assistance. The City of Carlisle did not respond. Jim Priebe hopes to meet with the Board of Supervisors soon to discuss options

2. Discussion, possible action, on status of seasonal employees:

Jim Priebe asked the Board to remove Kevin Brown from payroll, effective September 30, 2019. Joe Gavin moved to remove Brown as requested. Mark Kickbush seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Staff requested that the Board consider creating a 65% permanent part-time position in the field staff. To fund the prorated benefits, it would be necessary to hire less seasonal field staff. David Youngblut stressed that the reduced hours would be offset by the increased flexibility and reliability of a permanent position.

Ace Hendricks moved to make the requested change to a 65% permanent part-time position in the field staff. Mark Kickbush seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Request from Mid-American Energy for tree removal along Great Western Trail/Veterans Parkway corridor:

Jason Waugh from MidAmerican Energy informed the Board that MidAmerican will be installing a utility line in the Veterans Parkway right-of-way approximately five feet from the Parkway's border with the Great Western Trail. They will parallel for 1.7 miles. Utility easement have the ability to trim without easements, but MidAmerican is asking for a standard 30-foot easement, 25-feet of which would be in the Great Western Trail right-of-way. MidAmerican is proposing to clear the trail right-of-way between the parkway and the trail, either chipping the cut material in place or removing it as needed, but is willing to move forward with a trim only option if necessary.

David Youngblut reminded the Board of the die-off of boxelder trees that occurred in the area in 2018. The Board spent nearly \$3,000 to have trees that posed a dropping limb danger cut. Since that time quite a few more boxelders had died, and any ash trees in the right-of-way are now being affected by the emerald ash borer. The canopy that once cover the entire trail is greatly reduced.

MidAmerican Energy has stated that, in addition to chipping or removing anything they cut, they will also chip or remove those trees previously cut in place. MidAmerican is also pledging at least \$20,000 to help establish healthy vegetation in the right-of-way.

Staff stated that, while the situation is far from ideal, the vegetative cover in the right-of-way has changed dramatically since the Parkway discussion of 2016-17, and they felt that removing the vegetation and starting new growth represented the best long-term opportunity. Staff noted that the trail-using public is likely to be upset, but asked the Board to consider MidAmerican's request and offer.

The request from MidAmerican Energy was for the Board to grant a 30-foot easement for maintenance of the utility line—said easement to allow low growth trees—with MidAmerican removing all vegetation by chipping in place or removal of material, along with a minimum contribution of \$20,000 for reestablishing vegetation in the Great Western Trail right-of-way.

Ace Hendricks moved to approve the clearing of the north side of the Great Western Trail right-of-way, with all materials standing or down either chipped or removed, along the 1.7 miles it shares boundary with Veterans Parkway, and to create a permanent easement of up to 30-feet with MidAmerican Energy for maintenance of their utility line, and that MidAmerican Energy will provide a minimum of \$20,000 for reestablishing vegetation in that right-of-way. Motion seconded by Mark Kickbush. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Request from Churchville Little to use a portion of the Great Western Trail right-of-way in Churchville:

Brandon Long and Terry Corty presented a request from the Churchville Little League to expand their concession building. The expansion would put part of the building on the Great Western Trail right-of-way. This portion of right-of-way is wider than normal and has been maintained by the Little League for many years. Staff said that granting the request would have no impact on trail management.

Mark Kickbush moved to grant the request from Churchville Little League and have staff work on formal documentation of the permission. Motion seconded by Ace Hendricks. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. The staff proposal for the FY 2021 budget was discussed and table until November
- c. Public Hearing regarding the plans and specifications for new lodge on the grounds of the Annett Nature Center:

President Boll opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments.

Mark Kickbush moved to close the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Joe Gavin. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- d. Consider award of contract on six (6) bid packages for the lodge on the grounds of the Annett Nature Center with possible action:

1. Bid Package #1 Floor
2. Bid Package #2 Septic System
3. Bid Package #3 Framing
4. Bid Package #4 Roofing
5. Bid Package #5 Electrical
6. Bid Package #6 HVAC

No bids were received for Bid Packages #1, #3, or #4. Bids for Packages #2 and #6 were not accompanied by a bid bond and were not eligible for consideration. Bid Package #5 received one bid, from Miller Electric of Indianola, for \$9,999.00.

Jim Priebe requested that the Board accept the bid from Miller Electric and reopen bidding for Bid Packages #1, #2, and #6, and combine Bid Packages #3 and #4, with a bid opening to be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2019 at the Annett Nature Center.

Joe Gavin moved to approve the Miller Electric bid of \$9,999.00 for Bid Package #5. Motion seconded by Mark Kickbush. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Joe Gavin moved to reopen bids for Bid Packages #1, #2, #6, and a combined Bid Package #3 and #4, with a bid opening to be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2019 at the Annett Nature Center. Motion seconded by Ace Hendricks. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- v. Financial reports were distributed.
- vi. Bills were approved and signed.
- vii. Joe Gavin moved to adjourn. Seconded Mark Kickbush. Motion carried by unanimous vote at 7:09 p.m.

Ron Miller, Secretary

Warren County Conservation Board

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board met in special session on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola, Iowa. Meeting called to order by Secretary Miller at 6:04 p.m.

Those present:

Ron Miller, Secretary

Ace Hendricks

Mark Kickbush

Absent:

Sue Boll, President

Joe Gavin, Vice-President

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Jim Priebe, Director

David Youngblut, Op Coordinator

- iv. Business Agenda:

Consider award of contract on six (6) bid packages for the lodge on the grounds of the Annett Nature Center with possible action:

Bid Package #1 Floor

Bid Package #2 Septic System

Bid Package #3 Framing & Roofing

Bid Package #6 HVAC

Staff presented the tabulation of bids and requested that the Board accept and approve the low bid for each package.

After discussion, Ace Hendriks moved to accept the low bids as follows:

Bid Package #1: Dallas O'Brien, \$14,205.00,

Bid Package #2: Damen Moffit, \$21,000.00,

Bid Package #3: Bryan Herold, \$12,800.00,

Bid Package #6: Roberts Heating, Cooling and Plumbing: \$9,626.68.

Motion seconded by Mark Kickbush. Motion carried by 2-0 vote (Hendricks abstained).

- iii. There being no further business, Secretary Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.