

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center. Meeting called to order by President Kickbush at 6:00 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

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

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Co-Director/Naturalist II
Mark Wilson, CO-Director/Operations Coordinator
Mallory Wells, Officer Manager
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist
Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I

Guest(s):

- i. Reading of the Minutes
 - a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular October meeting were reviewed. Sue Boll approved the October minutes. Ace Hendricks seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports for August were presented.
 - a. No questions for any staff.
- iii. Business Agenda
 - a. Friends of Warren County Conservation Board (FWCC)
 - i. FWCC focused on ideas for next year's prairie picnic.
 - ii. They voted to hold the Osprey 5K in person and virtual. If runners choose the virtual option they will be charged shipping for their race packet.
 - b. Middleswart Lodge Update
 - i. Chief Chia is working on getting the paperwork from the State Fire Marshall. Sue Boll made a motion to not open the Middleswart Lodge until the Board has all the paperwork needed from the State Fire Marshall and Chief Chia. Ron Miller seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - ii. The County Attorney reviewed the rental policy and didn't like the fact that there isn't a sprinkler system. She contacted our insurance agency and they stated that every

renter must provide a certificate of liability insurance for any facility they rent from the Warren County Conservation Board.

- iii. Joe Schettler made the motion to require any renter for the Middleswart Lodge and the Annett Nature Center to provide a certificate of liability and Liquor liability insurance with limits no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence and \$2,000,000.00 aggregate. This policy would also need to name Warren County as an additional insured on the special event policy and copy of the policy would need to be provided to the county prior to the event. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion carried.

iv. New Business

- a. Consider Resolution Prohibiting Horseback riding at Swam White Oak
 - i. Ace Hendricks made the motion to prohibit horseback riding at Swamp White Oak. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b. Consider Resolution regarding closing date for Grant Campground, with possible action.
 - i. The road up to Grants Campground faces the North and becomes slick in the winter. Mark Wilson would like to put the gates back up to close the road to the campground. This would prohibit vehicles from heading up the hill and sliding off to one side or the other.
 - ii. Joe Schettler made the motion to close Grant Campground on November 15th for the 2021 season and November 1st every year after. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- c. Liability Insurance for ANC, with possible action
 - i. A motion was made with the Middleswart Lodge. See motion above under Middleswart Lodge update item iii.
- d. Discuss opening Wilson's Woods to public hunting, with possible action
 - i. Wilson Wood's was land locked until the State purchased all the land North of it. Currently there is no direct access, but the neighbor uses it for hunting. All the ground around it is open for public hunting.
 - ii. There is a bridge that the board should be thinking about replacing or tearing out. This may be something the DNR could help share the cost.
 - iii. Joe Schettler made the motion to open Wilson Woods to public hunting. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
 - iv. Tyler Seuferer mentioned allowing archery hunting at Otter Creek and Hickory Hills. In the fall after the campers are gone there is less traffic through those parks. We could bring in Craig Cutts to discuss park hunts since he has more experience.
- e. Naming of Parks, with possible action
 - i. Staff don't believe Gobblers Knob and Medora Prairie have ever been specifically named. It was talked about naming them the rolling thunder complex, but that is very confusing for visitors. Staff are suggesting naming them Medora Prairie, Gobbler's Knob, and keep Rolling Thunder as is since it's a State Preserve.
 - ii. Sue Boll made the motion to official name Gobblers Knob, Gobblers Knob. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.
- f. ARPA funds Update
 - i. Crystal McIntyre is working on an application to accept requests for funds. Once those are ready staff will submit requests for funding.

- ii. The Board of Supervisors did approve paying for the Conservation website.
- iii. Steve Gray drew up floor plans for the shower house and he suggested reaching out to Ryan Cambron to complete the project when we are ready. Crystal McIntyre informed us that we would not have to send it out for FRP or personal bids.
- iv. MidAmerican said it's still in the design form and won't give us a cost.
- v. Marion County Water said that it would cost roughly \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00 for water line, \$30,000.00 for the septic, \$43,000.00 for 3 hydrants and building plumbing, and \$99,000.00 for 50/30/20-amp breaker boxes for 15 sites.
- vi. Overall estimate would be \$278,000.00 just to get utilities in. Crystal McIntyre is in support of getting this project complete as it brings in lots of visitors to our county and would be a great addition to our County Park.

g. Fiscal Year '22 Budget Proposal

- i. Staff went through and put the amounts that they would like to request and why they are requesting them.
- ii. There are a few items we are waiting on at the bottom. Landscaping, Pond in the butterfly garden, lighting for ANC, and Stone for Zo-El trail.
- iii. There is a slide on the Summerset trail where a creek comes in at a 90-degree angle into the trail and then runs parallel to the trail. This bank wants to slide all the time. We've fixed it once professionally with Vanderpool and twice by us. The ground is totally saturated all the time so Mark went to Vanderpool to see what could be done. Vanderpool suggested Sheet Pile at a rough cost of \$43,740.00.
- iv. Tyler got an estimate from Landscape Lighting on lights for the walkway from the Annett Nature Center down to the Pavilion. They are 30 inches high, 6x6 metal square. He was quoted for 20 at \$700.00 apiece for a total of \$14,000.00. Tyler doesn't believe we need 20.
- v. Mark is working on getting a quote for natural stone to redo the Zo-El trail.

v. Discussion Items

a. Great Western Trail Update

- i. The tree planting is done.
- ii. We have a 4 million project to redo the GWT. The State Rec Trail grant is 1 million to 1.5 million and if we get it we would only get roughly \$300,000.00 to help with the trail. Staff believe we need to ask Polk County about assisting with repair as it is a shared trail.
- iii. Could we reach out to the Heritage Foundation to see if they could help start a major campaign to help raise the funds to repair the trail.

b. Strategic Plan

- i. Staff started a plan to establish goals and objectives to obtain those goals. There are a few goals that have been started. Some haven't been started but could be in the next two or three years.
- ii. Evaluations need to be on the strategic plan. Currently the Conservation Board is not in compliance with county policy.
- iii. There are multiple staff on probation that need to have an evaluation in order to come off of their probation period.
- iv. What is the mission statement for the Conservation? Who do we serve, how do we serve them, what can we be the best at, and what do we want to be known for?

- c. Woodland Mounds
 - i. Barb Van Hove has reached out about the property she owns on the East side of Woodland Mounds. She would like to discuss her property.
 - ii. We will need to apply for a REAP Grant if we need to purchase.
- vi. Financial Report
 - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the financial reports. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- vii. Approval of Bills
 - a. Mark Kickbush questioned why there is a Custodial supply with no funds, but it's been used at 127%. There is one for administration custodial supplies and other custodial supplies. Mallory Wells didn't know there were two-line items for custodial supplies. The claim should have been taken out of the other custodial supplies.
 - b. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the November Claims with the addition of \$45.00 to Visa. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried.
- viii. Adjournment
 - a. Ace Hendricks made a motion to adjourn at 7:42pm. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.