

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center. Meeting called to order by Vice President Hendricks at 6:00 p.m.

Those present:

Ace Hendricks, Vice-president

Sue Boll

Joe Schettler

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Absent:

Mark Kickbush, President

Ron Miller, Secretary

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

- i. Reading of the Minutes
 - a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular November meeting were reviewed. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes with a correction of adding an “s” to Ace Hendricks name under New Business, Item E Naming of Parks. Sue Boll seconded the motion with the corrections. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports for November were presented.
 - a. Sue Boll questioned if Covid is still affecting the numbers for events. Karen Johlas-Szalkowski said numbers are getting back to normal. There are still visitors that choose to use masks during programs. Staff are also getting back into the schools but have noticed less field trips.
 - b. Sue Boll mention her excitement for getting phase one done in the Exhibit Hall. She was pleased with the ribbon cutting and turn out for the event.
- iii. Business Agenda
 - a. Old Business
 - i. Friends of Warren County Conservation Board (FWCC)
 1. FWCC held a short meeting. They are gearing up for their membership mailing to go out in January of 2022.
 2. They will be bringing on a new board member from the Norwalk area.
 - ii. Middleswart Lodge Update
 1. Middleswart Lodge update tabled until January board meeting.
- iv. New Business
 - a. 2023 Budget, with Possible Action
 - i. In Fiscal year '22 the board over budgeted for long term debt reduction. What money is in this line item will remain in the budget for use.

- ii. Mark Wilson spoke with Warren County Supervisor Aaron DeKock and he stated that the Conservation Board could see a raise in their budget for the '23 fiscal year. Mark and Karen revisited the current proposal for the '23 fiscal year. They added request for \$70,526.72 for a track loader and brush mower, \$16,000.00 for a rotary cutter, \$24,853.09 for a water feature, \$43,740.00 for sheet piling on the Summerset Trail, and \$12,200.00 for limestone steps.
 - iii. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the budget proposal for fiscal year '23. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carries.
 - v. Discussion Items
 - a. ARPA Funds Update
 - i. The Warren County Board of Supervisors now has an application for taking ARPA fund requests. The Co-Directors have been working on getting projects for ARPA, therefore they have four projects ready to complete applications for. Broadband (internet), purchase of a skid loader, Exhibit Hall, and Grants Campground.
 - ii. Applications are due to the Board of Supervisors by December 15, 2021.
 - iii. Grant Campground
 - 1. MidAmerican gave a quote of \$24,272.55 to bring electricity up and over the road then back down. Conservation Staff will need to trench 2-inch conduit before Mid-American would drag the lines up to the campground.
 - 2. Staff are working with Moffitt Trenching to see what kind of Septic System will be needed.
 - 3. Marion Water gave an estimate of \$7,250.00 to bring water from the road up to the campground.
 - 4. Miller Electric gave a quote of \$127,940.00. This would include boring 2" PVC conduit from the pole to transformer 1,517 feet. Installing 15 pedestals with 50/30/20A Outlets, all necessary wire, trenching and rough backfill, 2 600A panel Boards, with labor to install.
 - 5. For the Shower house installing all wiring, 1 breaker panel, 5 light fixtures, 2 120 volt outlets, and 2 exterior light fixtures.
 - b. Evaluations
 - i. Staff would like to see evaluations done in January as this is a less busy time of year. The board will need to figure out how they are going to evaluate Co-Directors.
 - ii. There are several staff on probation that will need to be removed in January.
- vi. Financial Report
 - a. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the financial reports. Joe Schettler seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- vii. Approval of Bills
 - a. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the December Claims. Joe Schettler seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried.
- viii. Adjournment
 - a. Sue Boll made a motion to adjourn at 5:37pm. Joe Schettler seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.