

# OverMinutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center. Meeting called to order by Vice President Hendricks at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

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

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

Guests:

Julie Davis  
Mary Johnson  
Diane Hickman

## Reading of the Minutes

- a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular March meeting were reviewed. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the March Regular Meeting. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Organization
  - a. By-Laws
    - i. Sue Boll made the motion to approve the by-laws as written. Ron Miller seconded the motion. All Ayes. Motion carried 4-0 with Mark Kickbush absent.
- iii. Staff Reports.
  - a. Staff reports were not presented. Office Manager Wells thought the board did not want to see the reports and wanted updates from the Co-Directors. Hendrick and Boll mentioned they like to see an outline of what employees are doing each month. Wells stated she will add March and April reports to the May board packet.

- iv. Business Agenda
  - a. Old Business
    - i. Friends of Warren County Conservation Board (FWCC)
      - 1. Friends are actively working on gathering items for the picnic auction.
      - 2. They are hosting the Osprey 5K on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>. They currently have 25 registered and they are looking for volunteers for the event.
      - 3. Steve Dermard worked with the Iowa DNR to get an out of state deer tag to auction. Last year they listed it at \$20,000.00 this year they listed it for \$22,000.00. The first person to bid the asking price will receive the tag.
    - ii. Strategic Plan
      - 1. Co-Director Johlas-Szalkowski updated the board on the website redesign. She is hoping for it to go live July 1, 2022.
- v. New Business
  - a. Horseback riding at Swamp White Oak
    - i. Julie Davis, Mary Johnson, and Diane Hickman shared they would appreciate continued horseback riding at Swamp White Oak. They provided photos and a letter of support. The board discussed the trail and decided to keep it horse free.
  - b. Campground Rules and regulations
    - i. Joe Schettler made the motion to approve the campground rules and regulations as submitted. Mark Kickbush seconded. All ayes. Motion carries
  - c. Fox Ridge Development
    - i. Co-Director Wilson stated that the City of West Des Moines would like to put a monument on county property at 25<sup>th</sup> street where it cuts through the trail. They would like to put the monument on the county property because it's more visible. Joe Schettler made a motion to not allow the monument to be built on county property. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
  - d. Forest Therapy
    - i. Co-Director Johlas-Szalkowski and Naturalist I Longnecker would like to be able to use their Forest Therapy skills outside of work. Sue Boll made the motion to allow staff to use their Forest Therapy skills outside of work hours. Mark Kickbush seconded the motion. All Ayes. Motion carried.
  - e. Covid-19 CARES Act Funding
    - i. Ron Miller made the motion to accept the agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation Federal-Aid Agreement for a COVID-19 Relief recreational Trails Program Project. Mark Kickbush seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- vi. Discussion Items
  - a. ARPA Funds Update
    - i. Staff purchased a new truck. It is now getting a dump box put on it and should be ready to go soon.
    - ii. Sheet piling has been completed on the Summerset Trail.
    - iii. The electric is all trenched in from campsite to campsite. Were waiting on the electrical hook up, they are on back order. Mid-American has been out and set the poles. They are ready to energize the poles but we're waiting on Miller Electric to come and bore the lines. Still waiting on Marion Water to get water brought in.

- iv. Co-Director Johlas-Szalkowski attended the ARPA workshop. She let the board of Supervisors know that she would like all the funding as it's getting harder to break it down into smaller chunks. They will decide on the funding at a later date. Destination Iowa is offering grant opportunities that we could investigate for funding options for completing the Exhibit Hall.
  - b. Wetland Control Structure Update
    - i. Co-Director Wilson has reached out to the Iowa DNR about getting the wetland dam repaired but he has not heard back as of the meeting time.
    - ii. Co-Director Wilson located the lease agreement with Blair Lawson. It will need to be updated to reflect leasing 70 acres and not 77 since the purchase of 7 acres for the Middleswart Lodge.
  - c. End of Year Claims Period
    - i. Co-Director Wilson attend ISAC in March and stated many counties submit claims twice a month then take the final report to their board meeting for approval. He would like to be able to submit claims multiple times at the end of the fiscal year without having to hold a special meeting.
  - d. Mission Statement
    - i. Board and staff discussed the mission statements provided. Staff will work together to come up with a statement for the next board meeting.
  - e. Vision Statement
    - i. Tabled until the mission statement is completed.
- vii. Financial Report
  - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. Mark Kickbush seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- viii. Approval of Bills
  - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the April Claims. Mark Kickbush seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried.
- ix. Adjournment
  - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.