

OverMinutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center. Meeting called to order by President Hendricks at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

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

Absent:

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 Seufferer, Natural Resource Specialist
Ryan McPherran, Conservation Technician

Guests:

Monty Freeman, Friends of Warren County Conservation Board Member

Reading of the Minutes

- a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular February meeting were reviewed. Ron Miller made a motion to approve the February Regular Meeting. Joe Schettler seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Organization
 - a. By-Laws
 - i. Naturalist/Co-Director Johlas-Szalkowski suggested making the wording consistent for all non-co-director positions regarding assigned duties. Under essential functions the last bullet point should read “All other duties as assigned by Co-Directors or the board.”
 - ii. On the Amendments page under Operations Coordinator/Co-Director it should read trails not trials on bullet point 5 “Secures grants regarding parks, trails, and wildlife areas.”
 - iii. Ace Hendricks made a motion to accept the by-laws with wording changes made under the essential functions bullet point and amendment bullet point under Operations Coordinator/Co-Director. Ron Miller seconded. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

- iii. Staff Reports for February were presented.
 - a. Naturalist II/Co-Director Johlas-Szaklowski is working on setting up a Farm to Table dinner at the Middleswart Lodge this fall. She is working with a local chef who uses local growers and producers from our community to create a meal.
 - b. The Co-Directors Wilson and Johlas-Szaklowski met with Denny Woodruff and Ronda Frost regarding the Carlisle Nature Trail to see how WCCB could partner. Co-Director Johlas-Szaklowski has offered to do a few programs like she does with Indianola Parks and Recreation. Co-Director Wilson suggested entering a 28E agreement with the City of Carlisle to specify who takes care of certain areas around the trail.
 - c. Naturalist I Longnecker did a program all about the mouths of insects. She teaches the students about the different parts of the mouths then the students get to pretend to use the different mouths at the different stations.
 - d. Co-director Wilson hired 3 seasonals for the upcoming summer.
 - e. Natural Resource Specialist Seuferer has been working with Williams Machine Shop to create new park signs that are similar to the Middleswart Lodge sign.
- iv. Business Agenda
 - a. Old Business
 - i. Friends of Warren County Conservation Board (FWCC)
 - 1. The FWCC board is working to gather auction items for the prairie picnic.
 - 2. They have agreed to fund a small portion of the exhibit hall so there will still be funds available for grant use.
 - ii. Middleswart Lodge Update
 - 1. Office Manager Wells informed the board that there has been a lot of interest in renting.
 - iii. Strategic Plan
 - 1. Co-Directors reviewed current projects with updates.
 - v. New Business
 - a. Snyder & Associates Service Agreement
 - i. Joe Schettler made the motion to approve the service agreement with Snyder & Associates. Ace Hendricks seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried
 - b. Plant Sale
 - i. Conservation Technician McPherran made tables for the plant sale that make it more efficient to grow the plants. They will sit outside the green house on the newly poured patio.
 - ii. He also presented to two classes at the Indianola High School and Southeast Polk. The first class he taught them about the importance of the native prairies then helped the students start seeds of their own in the school's green house.
 - iii. He has reached out to Southeast Warren but has not heard back. He would love to get into the Norwalk and Carlisle Community Schools as well.
 - iv. He did some research on outsourcing the growing of the plants for the plant sale. Diversity Farms out of Carroll County has quite a list of plants to choose from that they would grow for WCCB then sell them to the board at \$1.50 per plant. They would also allow the board to provide seeds for them to grow as well.
 - v. He would like to get the fall seed harvest into other cities around the county to get more involvement.

- c. Set Camping Fee Rates
 - i. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve camping fees for Grant Nature Land at \$20.00 per night and Hickory Hills and Otter Creek at \$5.00 per night. Ron Miller seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- d. Warren County Conservation Board Mission Statement
 - i. President Kickbush would like the board and staff to submit their statements to Office Manger Wells to compile and present at the next board meeting.
- e. Warren County Conservation Board Vision Statement
 - i. The board will discuss after the mission statement has been set.
- vi. Discussion Items
 - a. Wetland Overflow Tube
 - i. The overflow tube is starting to rust and needs to be repaired. Co-Director Wilson met with staff doing the Lake Ahquabi restoration. They informed him there are grants available to help repair overflow tubes for government agencies. After further research there is a permit easement on the land that states that the DNR are to build and maintain the wetland. Co-Director Wilson will speak with the lake restoration crew to see if they can repair the tube while they have their equipment down here.
 - b. ARPA Funds Update
 - i. Budget Director Minar has created an ARPA line in the county budget to process ARPA claims through. She is planning to submit Miller Electric's bill for \$22,000.00 and MidAmerican's bill for \$24,557.00 for payment at the March 15th Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting.
 - ii. Steve Gray has drawn up the plans for the building. He is going to submit a bill for the drawing. WCCB will pay then he will turn around and donate the funds back to WCCB.
 - iii. Miller Electric will start trenching Grant's Campground the 3rd week of March. He will run all the electric to the campground throughout. WCCB staff have been placing 6x6 pedestals in the ground to attach the electrical pedestals to. The only hang up is a 3 month wait for the electrical pedestals.
 - iv. MidAmerican is about 5 weeks out for installation.
 - v. The campground is 3rd on the list for Marion Water.
 - vi. Ryan Cambron would like to break ground for the footing and slab late March.
 - c. Great Western Trail Update
 - i. WCCB reviewed the Structural Evaluation Report for the Great Western Trail submitted by Shuck Britson
- vii. Financial Report
 - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. Ace Hendricks seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- viii. Approval of Bills
 - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the March Claims. Ace Hendricks seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried.
- ix. Adjournment
 - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.