

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2022. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center. Meeting called to order by President Kickbush at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

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

Absent:

Ron Miller, Secretary

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Mark Wilson, CO-Director/Operations Coordinator  
Mallory Wells, Officer Manager  
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist  
Monty Freeman

Guest:

## Reading of the Minutes

- a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular July meeting were reviewed. Minutes need information regarding the closed session from July 13<sup>th</sup>. July minutes will be corrected and presented at the August meeting.
- ii. Staff Reports.
  - a. Office Manager – Ace Hendricks appreciated Mallory mailing out a sponsor t-shirt to Zach with Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs. Joe Schettler asked about the State Auditor’s visit. These visits are roughly the same time each year. They will come to the county and contact each office giving roughly a day’s advance notice for coming to audit. There were no new findings this year.
  - b. Conservation Tech Stonebrook – Picked up railroad ties that were no longer being used at Grant Park and Hickory Hills. Pulled all the fence along the road at the front of Grants.
  - c. Conservation Tech McPherran has been helping with programs as well as his daily duties. He will be assisting with field trips.
  - d. Co-Director Wilson had staff rent a stump grinder to grind all the stumps staff have been mowing around.
- iii. Business Agenda
  - a. Old Business
    - i. Friends of Warren County Conservation Board (FWCC)
      1. Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer, met with the State Auditor’s and will be able to clear off some items their board had from their last audit. Monty is working with staff to make sure that FWCC and WCCB funds are kept separate. He felt the meeting went well and the Auditor gave great tips for clearing up their report.

- iv. New Business
  - a. Consider Trail Access Easement Policy
    - i. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the Trail Access Easement policy as written. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
    - ii. Joe Schettler made a motion to resend his first motion. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
    - iii. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the Trail Access Easement with the addition of "An easement fee of \$5,000.00 will be assessed for trail connections." Added under Proposed Guidelines for easements for trail access, number 3. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried
  - b. Fox Ridge Monument
    - i. Co-Director Wilson met with the Warren County Supervisors and Cory Bloom of DR Horton. DR Horton agreed to pay \$5,000.00 for a permanent easement along the Great Western Trail to place their Fox Ridge Monument.
  - c. Credit Card Authorization Business Officers 1 and 2
    - i. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve Mark Wilson as business officer 1 and Mallory Wells as business officer 2 on the conservation credit card. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
  - d. Discussion of Staff Changes
    - i. Joe Schettler made a motion to appoint Mark Wilson as the interim director. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- v. Discussion Items
  - a. Potential Reserved Life Estate Donation
    - i. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation person that deals with life estates reached out Mark Wilson regarding a gentleman who is starting to look for options to for his land. He has a meeting set up with WCCB staff on Friday August 12<sup>th</sup> to see what he wants this land to do long term. Outdoor teaching lab, park, public hunting etc.
  - b. Middlebrook Agri Hood
    - i. The developer is asking for WCCB to help with the cost of putting in a parking lot for trail users. This will also serve as a parking lot for a plaza area. They would like to add a trail crossing and trail spurs to allow pedestrians to get on and off the trail.
  - c. Des Moines Metro Area Planning Organization trail counter
    - i. Mark Wilson was contacted by Des Moines Metro Area Planning Organization about putting a trail counter on the Great Western Trail. They will rent the trail counter to WCCB and staff will install it. Once installed it will track all the traffic along the trail and can determine if it's a walker/runner or biker. Collecting this information will help to supply a number of users, of the trail, for grants that WCCB may apply for in the future.
  - d. ARPA Update
    - i. Next week the roof will be going on the restroom at Grant's.
    - ii. Miller Electric is still waiting on the panels that go in the transformers.
    - iii. Mark Wilson talked to Marion County Water, and they stated they will be out in 3 weeks to hook up water.
    - iv. The water feature in front of the Annett Nature Center will be put in next month.
    - v. The skid loader is in and will be picked up September 6<sup>th</sup>.

- vi. Staff are putting in the bases for the new light fixtures.
    - e. Great Western Trail Update
      - i. The contract has been signed. The Contractor is planning to start in the spring of 2023.
    - f. Website
      - i. Kelsey Longnecker and Mallory Wells met with Grant at Gradient 9. He is still needing information regarding a few of the parks and staff photos. He is working on making it easier to get people registered online.
    - g. Farm to Table
      - i. The event was a success. All positive feedback from the guests as well as the chef and his staff. Chef Aaron Holt enjoyed the facility and made it work with out a stove. He let staff know that he looks forward to working with us in the future.
    - h. Playscape
      - i. Kelsey Longnecker and Mallory Wells met with Lisa Donnelly with JBC landscape Architects, regarding the playscape. There has been a change in location since the last meeting. They worked out details on what they would like to change or add. The meeting went well overall.
    - i. Business breakfast WC Economic Development
      - i. Mallory Wells attended the WC Economic Development breakfast at the Balloon field. Debi Durham presented on the over development in the State of Iowa. Representatives from each Warren County City presented updates about their communities. Mallory spoke on behalf of the WCCB and shared the ARPA funds being used to upgrade Grant campground.
  - vi. Financial Report
    - a. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. Joe Schettler seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
  - vii. Approval of Bills
    - a. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the August claims. Joe Schettler seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
  - viii. Adjournment
    - a. Sue Boll made a motion to adjourn at 6:57pm. Joe Schettler seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.