

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 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:

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:

Cory Bloom, DR Horton  
Gene Mercer, G&G Landscaping

## Reading of the Minutes

- a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular May meeting were reviewed. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the May Regular Meeting. Joe Schettler seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
  - a. Staff reports were presented.
- iii. Business Agenda
  - a. Old Business
    - i. Friends of Warren County Conservation Board (FWCC)
      1. Still prepping for the Prairie Picnic. Doing a lot of planning ahead.
      2. They wrapped up the plant sale.
      3. Kids fish day was a success.
      4. Friends purchased 6 quail for the Wild Outdoor Women event. These will be used during the small game cleaning session.
    - ii. Strategic Plan
      1. The website is close to being ready to launch. Staff are hoping it will go live in June. There are a few items that still need to be added. When it goes live the old database will be turned off. The old database is saved and can be utilized if something should happen to the new site.
      2. There is a new logo to go with the new site.

3. Co-Director Johlas-Szalkowski added the playscape to the Strategic Plan. After talking with Jane about grant writing possibilities, she thinks we can write a bigger grant matching the ARPA and Iowa Destination Grant allowing us to get more funds than originally planned. Karen is working with a company to get plans drawn to be able to apply for grants.
- iv. New Business
- a. Mission & Vision Statement
    - i. Joe Schettler made the motion to adopt the mission statement as follows “To provide environmental education programs, maintain parks, trails, and natural areas for recreation, and connect citizens with the outdoors.” Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carries.
    - ii. Joe Schettler made the motion to adopt the vision statement “To protect and enhance the natural resources of Warren County” Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carries.
  - b. Fox Ridge Development
    - i. Cory Bloom with DR Horton presented to the board. His company would like to place a monument on the berm next to the Great Western Trail at 25<sup>th</sup> street and Veteran’s Parkway. The board would like to see the monument placed on DR Horton’s land and asked Cory to come back with other options.
  - c. Summerset Trail Crossings
    - i. Gene Mercer with G&G Landscaping and Excavating, presented his plans to cross the Summerset the trail. This crossing will be roughly 1 mile North of Hillcrest Ave. The board would like to see a tunnel put in, so Gene is going to research the ability of putting in a tunnel.
    - ii. Co-Director Wilson will work with the legal team to establish a policy for crossing trails over seen by the Warren County Conservation Board.
- v. Discussion Items
- a. Advertising on County Property
    - i. Joe Schettler made the motion to not allow private businesses to advertise on County owned property. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
  - b. ARPA Funds Update
    - i. WCCB has received roughly \$820,000.00 in ARPA funds and they are being put to good use with Grant Campground and Exhibit Hall updates.
    - ii. Grant Campground now has electricity run up to each site and transformer have been set. Each holds plug ins for 20/30/50-amp breaker.
    - iii. There is \$30,000.00 dedicated to this project that may not be spent. Co-Director Wilson would like to ask the Warren County Board of Supervisors if we can keep this money and use it to put in concrete pads for campers to park on.
  - c. Great Western Trail
    - i. Currently there are no updates for the Great Western Trail.
- vi. Financial Report
- a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

- vii. Approval of Bills
  - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the June claims. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- viii. Adjournment
  - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.