

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 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  
Ron Miller, Secretary  
Joe Schettler  
Sue Boll

Absent:

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, FWCC Treasurer

Guest:

Dawn Bowman, Assistant W.C. Attorney  
Cory Bloom, D.R. Horton

## Reading of the Minutes

- a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular July and August meetings were reviewed. Sue Boll made the motion to approve the minutes. Ron Miller 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. Friends are working on the finishing touches for the Prairie Picnic. Last year only 68 registered and as of the board meeting there were 100 registered.
- iv. New Business
  - a. Fox Ridge Monument
    - i. President Kickbush questioned the wording on item 7 “Property to be Restored” the verbiage enlargement. Dawn Bowman, Assistant County Attorney, confirmed that is only if the monument is damaged, they can replace it. It will need to be the same size or smaller.
    - ii. After Mark Wilson and Joe Schettler met with Cory Bloom it was their understanding that D.R.Horton would oversee the stop sign located near the trail. Dawn Bowman would like to see the county over see it in the event it would be knocked down or go missing the county could replace it right away.

- iii. Ron Miller made the motion to approve the Fox Ridge Monument Easement. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b. Playscape
  - i. Kelsey Longnecker presented her ideas and plans for the playscape. She met with Jane Colavecchi, grant writer. Since the first master plan was drawn up, the location has changed. Therefore, in order to apply for the Destination Iowa Grant, a new master plan will need to be drawn up. Kelsey has made calls to multiple agencies that specialize in playscapes. She is waiting to hear back. Jane has offered to meet with the companies to help them understand what we are looking for since we will be working with grant funding.
- c. Out of County Programs
  - i. Kelsey Longnecker presented charging for out of county programs. She currently tries to prioritize in county programs but schedules programs as people reach out. At this time the board would like her to continue scheduling as she does and not charge.
- d. Rental Rates
  - i. Mallory Wells shared that rentals are down. She would like to revisit the rates. The board discussed different options. Mallory will investigate tiered pricing.
- v. Discussion Items
  - a. By Laws
    - i. Mark Wilson has worked on updating the bylaws. He cleaned up the job descriptions, added Environmental Education Coordinator and changed Naturalist I and II to Naturalist. To complete the bylaws the board needs to approve staff job descriptions, pay grades and pay scales.
    - ii. Staff is hoping to be list the naturalist position starting in October and hire towards the end of November beginning of December.
  - b. ARPA Update
    - i. The Grant's Nature land restroom/shower house is almost done. They have picked up Epoxy coating to epoxy the inside of both the shower stall and restrooms. There will be a sidewalk that goes all the way around with a 16' concrete slab that you can pull up and park. There will also be a hydrant so people can fill up their water. Staff will be moving the road to the south to provide more room between the road and shower house.
  - c. Potential Reserved Life Estate Donation
    - i. Mark Wilson and Tyler Seufferer met with the potential donor at the land to be donated. They said it was a nice piece of land and think it would be a wonderful addition to our parks. Mark believes that the donor will be talking with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to start the donation process.
  - d. Trail Access Policy Update
    - i. Mark Wilson presented the Trail Access Policy at the Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting. The Supervisors passed the policy.
  - e. Great Western Trail Update
    - i. Mark Wilson stated there's not much to update. We need to make sure that the project doesn't go inactive for 8 months or the funds will be lost. He is working to make sure this project stays active.

- ii. Mark met with the Polk County Director at ISAC and he gave Mark some names of people to contact about fundraising for the bike trails. He has since reached out to Ellen Nelson, with Funding Solutions, to see if she can assist with trail maintenance funding.
  - f. Website
    - i. Mallory Wells showed the new website Park names should be used as they were dedeed to the conservation board. This should also be reflected on the website. Staff will make the correction to the website.
    - ii. to the board. She is working with Gradiant9 to get the information updated and to add photos from Conservation to the website.
  - g. Park Names
    - i. Ace Hendricks brought up Park Names. He reminded staff that we should be using the park names as they were dedeed to conservation. Staff will update the website to reflect the correct names for the parks.
  - h. Animal Care
    - i. Kelsey Longnecker had a vet come to check over the owls. One needed to go in for more testing due to some damage to its lower beak.
  - i. Set Budget Meeting
    - i. Staff and board members will meet September 23, 2022 at 8:30am at the Annett Nature Center to discuss Fiscal year 24 budget.
  - j. GeoThermal
    - i. The Annett Nature Center has five Geothermal units that were put in place in 2010. Mark Wilson would like to start budgeting for the replacement of the units, so we don't have to replace them all at once. These units cost approximately 3 times more than your forced air furnace would be.
- vi. Financial Report
  - a. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the monthly financial report. Ron Miller seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- vii. Approval of Bills
  - a. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the September claims. Ron Miller seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- viii. Adjournment
  - a. Sue Boll made a motion to adjourn at 6:57pm. Ron Miller seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.