

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

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

Absent:

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

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Guest:

Mark Wilson, Director
Mallory Wells, Officer Manager
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist
Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator
Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer

Reading of the Minutes

- a. Warren County Conservation Board meeting minutes from the regular November meeting were reviewed. Mallory Wells asked for clarification on who made a motion under new business, item E, Easement. Joe Schettler made the motion and Sue Boll seconded the motion
 - b. Sue Boll made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction to November's minutes under New Business, Item E., Easements. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes.
Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
 - a. Environmental Education Coordinator Kelsey Longnecker
 - i. Turkeys and Fish to preschoolers.
 1. She brings in a turkey box, hands out facts about turkeys then uses the items in the box to show and teach the kids about the turkey. There is a tail fan, replica head, feet, and eggs. Depending on the time she may read a story.
 2. Fish will talk about what makes a fish a fish. Talk about some of the fish they will find here in Iowa. Afterwards they will get to hold a minnow.
 - ii. Fall Nature Market
 1. Fall Nature Market went well. She believes some due to the cold weather there weren't as many attendees, but there was still a good turnout. The vendors were happy and some plan to return next year.

- iii. Beaver Butchering
 - 1. Beaver Butchering was cancelled due to not enough numbers. Jim Coffey ended up making beaver stew for the Nature Market for people to try. It went well.
 - b. Office Manager Mallory Wells
 - i. Final Gradient Meeting
 - 1. Mallory and Kelsey met with Grant from Gradient 9 to learn how to manage the new website. This was the last meeting with Grant.
 - ii. Indoor Play Date
 - 1. This program is designed for kids preschool age and under to burn off energy. She took the Turkey box along with turkey coloring sheets and talked about turkeys and colored with the kids.
 - c. Natural Resource Specialist Tyler Seufferer
 - 1. Planted shrubs along the GWT. This year staff picked better spots with better soil. This will hopefully help them grow. The plants planted last year were in rocky soil and didn't survive the drought.
 - d. Conservation Technician Ryan McPherran
 - 1. There is a area of the yard that is no longer being used at Otter Creek so he is going to plant it in Native Prairie. Staff let it grow all year, sprayed it, burned it this fall, and Ryan is hoping to plant it before the next snow fall.
 - 2. There were pine trees that were dead between the ANC and the shop, so staff cleared those out and replanted new trees in place of the ones that were cut out.
 - iii. Business Agenda
 - a. Old Business
 - i. Friends of Warren County Conservation Board (FWCC)
 - 1. FWCC is planning to have a meeting in December to get the by-laws set and start on the annual report. They purchased the computer from WCCB.
 - iv. New Business
 - a. New Hire, Hannah Hernandez
 - i. Sue Boll made the motion to hire Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist, effective December 19, 2022. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - b. FWCC discounted rental rate
 - i. Ace Hendricks made the motion to give all Friends of Warren County Conservation, at the \$50.00 benefactor level, \$100.00 off one rental per calendar day, once per calendar year. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried
 - c. Great Western Trail Churchville property
 - i. An adjacent landowner to the GWT approached the WCCB about purchasing a portion for the trail right away. After the board discussed the issue they decided against selling county property.
 - d. Great Western Trail 20th Ave. property
 - i. An Adjacent landowner has encroached on the county right of way. Mark informed the board that the County Attorneys office is looking into the matter.

- v. Discussion Items
 - a. ARPA Update
 - i. Mark has been working with Moffit Trenching to get a quote for running water from the meter pit to the campground. He received a quote for \$13,000.00.
 - b. Great Western Trail Update
 - i. Mark is working with Snyder & Associates to resolve an issue with the Iowa DOT.
- 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 November claims. Ron Miller seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- viii. Adjournment
 - a. Sue Boll made a motion to adjourn at 5:45pm. Ace Hendricks seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.