

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center. Meeting called to order by President Mark Kickbush at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

Mark Kickbush, President
Ace Hendricks, Vice-president
Sue Boll
Angie Croll

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Absent:

Joe Schettler, Secretary

Also present:

Mark Wilson, Director
Mallory Wells, Officer Manager
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist
Kelsey Freeman, EE Coordinator
Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist

Guest:

- i. Reading of the Minutes
 - a. Ace Hendricks made a motion to approve the March minutes as written. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
 - a. Director Mark Wilson
 - i. Attended the CAT grant review in support of Friends of Carlisle Parks. They applied for a grant to get a flush toilet on the bike trail and they received their grant. They will be figuring out their contractor soon to connect the Carlisle Nature Trail to the Easter Lake Trail.
 - ii. REAP Committee meeting went well. They plan to have a meeting in June.
 - b. EE Coordinator Kelsey Longnecker
 - i. Ace Hendricks would like to know what our contacts are this year compared to last year. Kesley will need to go back and look to compare numbers.
 - ii. Animals Shouldn't Wear Clothes is a story about animal adaptations that they use instead of clothing.
 - iii. Forest Therapy was canceled due to low numbers and sickness.
 - c. Naturalist Hannah Hernandez
 - i. There was a group of homeschool groups that came together for a program. They set it up just like any other school program.
 - ii. Other Programs with Windsor Manor and Ackworth Garden Club both had great numbers and were great outreach programs.

- d. Office Manager Mallory Wells
 - i. BOS is the Warren County Board of Supervisors. They hosted their work session at the Middleswart Lodge giving WCC Staff the opportunity to share about the building and how it is an asset here to WCCB.
 - ii. Mallory has been trying to track indoor visitors and provide those numbers monthly. She has per month and year to date.
- e. Natural Resource Specialist
 - i. Redid the drainage pipe from the turtle tank to allow for easier cleaning of the water.
 - ii. They added rock where the GWT had settled and will repair with concrete once it gets warmer.
- f. Conservation Techs
 - i. Kevin Brown and Mankato Stonebrook spent a day in Madison County helping Madison County Conservation with their prescribed burn at Pammel Park.
- iii. Business Agenda
 - a. New Business
 - i. Hereford Memorial Site
 - 1. The Warren County Historical Society would like the WCCB to purchase the site location and take over maintenance of the Hereford Memorial Site located in rural Warren County. After discussion the Board will not be moving forward with this due to lack of funding to purchase the area.
 - b. Old Business
 - i. Strategic Plan
 - 1. Director Mark Wilson made some additions to the plan to include purchasing property to expand the WCCB areas.
 - 2. Vice President Ace Hendricks would like to send completed tasks to the Warren County Board of Supervisors to show what the staff have accomplished. Director Wilson stated that information is typically shared through the Annual Report.
 - c. Discussion Items
 - i. Grant Nature Land Campground Update
 - 1. They graded and seeded around the 5 new campsites as well as the restroom. Re-numbered all the posts at the campsites, adding fire rings and added rock to the driveway.
 - 2. The shower house floor needs to be epoxied then it will be complete.
 - 3. Director Mark Wilson would like to keep the campground closed until the grass has a chance to be established.
 - ii. Chamber/Tourism Update
 - 1. Office Manger Mallory Wells has been attending chamber meetings with Carlisle, Indianola, and Norwalk. She is working on public outreach.
 - 2. Director Wilson, EE Coordinator Kelsey Longnecker, and Office Manager Mallory Wells attended the Indianola Tourism committee meeting. They listened to a presenter from Travel Iowa and she shared that Outdoor Recreation is at the top of the list when it comes to tourism.

iii. Director's Absence

1. Director Mark Wilson will be absent for the month of May and part of June 2023. During that time Tyler Seuferer will oversee the Conservation Techs and drill seed rentals, EE Coordinator will oversee the Naturalist as well as educational programing, and Office Manager Mallory Wells will oversee the day to day operations and rentals.

iv. Upcoming Events

1. April Events

- a. Spring Hike at Blue Flag Marsh
- b. Earth Day Event

2. May Events

- a. Dutch Oven Cooking
- b. FWCC Native Plant Sale
- c. Dogs Day Out - Partnership with Kyia Koda Animal Rescue.

1. They will have adoptable dogs for participants to walk along the trails as well as speakers about dog etiquette on the trail.

d. Financial Report

- i. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the financial reports. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

e. Approval of Bills

- i. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the claims. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

f. Adjournment

- i. Sue Boll made the motion to adjourn at 5:45pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.