

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The meeting was held in person at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118<sup>th</sup> Ave., Indianola, IA 50125. Meeting called to order by Vice President Ace Hendricks at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

Mark Kickbush, President

Ace Hendricks, Vice-president

Joe Schettler, Secretary

Sue Boll

Angie Croll

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Guest:

Mark Wilson, Director

Randy Stone, Indianola Carousel Theater

Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist

Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator

Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist

Mallory Wells, Office Manager

Monty Freeman, FWCC Board Member

## i. Reading of the Minutes

a. Ace Hendricks found a correction to the minutes under the Business Agenda, New Business, Item 6. The words budge needs to be changed to budget.

b. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes. Sue Boll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

## ii. Staff Reports.

a. Staff Reports were presented.

### i. Director

1. Fiber will be connected after the administration phones are installed.
2. The county is working with a company to provide new software for the budget. Each department will have more control of their budget and will be able to project their future budgets.

### ii. Environmental Education Coordinator

1. The exhibit hall has been paid for with ARPA funds. Kelsey has been working to finish up the specifications needed and now they will move into fabrication. They are still working on the piece under the stairs.
2. The front room is on hold until staff can meet with the proper entities to make sure the display is appropriate.
3. She is making progress on the playscape.

### iii. Naturalist

1. ISF was the public outreach she did at the Iowa State Fair

- iv. Office Manager
    - 1. MIAP is a grant-writing company that will be able to assist WCCB with grants as needed.
- iii. Business Agenda
  - a. New Business
    - i. Indianola Carousel Theatre
      - 1. The Carousel Theater has been misplaced out of the two locations they have used over the past few years. They are asking to use the Middleswart Lodge from February 24th, 2024, through March 17th, 2024. This would be to hold their community theater shows. The board discussed the heating system and thinks it would need an upgrade before that long of use. The board also discussed the condition of the road during that time. Randy Stone told them they didn't need to decide today, just let him know their decision.
    - ii. Approve New Conservation Technician
      - 1. Angie Croll made the motion to hire Jon Gingerich for the conservation technician position at Grade 10, Step 4 at \$21.24 dollars per hour. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.
    - iii. Horseback Riding
      - 1. Sue Boll made a motion not allowing any equine of any type to ride on any property owned or managed by the Warren County Conservation Board. Angie Croll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
    - iv. Hillbilly Hike Trail Use
      - 1. Thrive Church submitted a special use permit for their annual Hillbilly Hike that takes place the first weekend of November.
      - 2. The board approved their use of the trail until 2027.
    - v. Zo-El Trail
      - 1. Director Mark Wilson received two quotes to repair the trail at Zo-El. He would like to move forward with TeBock Landscape Company.
      - 2. Sue Boll made a motion to accept the bid from TeBock Landscape Company and to move forward with the trail repair. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
    - vi. Badger Creek Bridge
      - 1. Herberger construction inspected the Badger Creek Bridge and will be sending a quote for the cost of repair. Director Wilson expects this quote to come in around \$50,000.00. He will keep the board informed of any updates.
    - vii. Great Western Trail Patchwork
      - 1. Repairs to the GWT have been started. The crew has torn out the sections of the trail needing repaired and should be laying concrete soon. Director Wilson would like to keep the momentum moving forward and would like to access the GWT Funds in the Friends of Warren County Conservation account to do more patch work on the trail.
      - 2. Joe Schettler made a motion to use up to \$100,000.00 to do patch work on the Great Western Trail. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

b. Discussion Items

i. 50<sup>th</sup> WCCB Anniversary

1. 2024 WCCB will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Staff would like to have as many board members and staff in attendance as possible. They are looking at hosting an anniversary event on a Saturday in October of 2024.

ii. Lester Davison Memorial Pavilion Plumbing

1. Director Wilson is working on a quote for a new septic system for the Pavilion.

iii. GWT Update

1. Director Wilson is having the bridges along the trails inspected. The Badger Creek Bridge needs repair, and he is working with Herberger Construction to get a quote for the repair.

iv. Summerset Trail Encroachment

1. The homeowner to the West of the Summerset Trail at the Summerset Road crossing has removed trees on the county property and piled them along the trail. They have also planted a garden that is on the county property. Director Wilson has issued them a letter asking them to remove the cut down trees as well as the garden.

c. Closed Session

i. Closed session Pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 (1) (j)

1. Joe Schettler made a motion to move into closed session at 5:31pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
2. The board moved out of closed session at 6:05pm.

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. Joe Schettler made the motion to adjourn at 7:26pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.