

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. The meeting was held in person at the Annett Nature Center, 15565 118th Ave., Indianola, IA 50125. Meeting called to order by President Mark Kickbush at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

Mark Kickbush, President
Ace Hendricks, Vice-President
Angie Croll

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Absent:

Joe Schettler, Secretary
Sue Boll

Also present:

Mark Wilson, Director
Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist
Mankato Stonebrook, Conservation Tech.
Mallory Wells, Office Manager
Monty Freeman, FWCC Board Member

Guest:

Ron Eckoff
Erin Van Waus,
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Martin Wells
Michelle Wilson

- i. Reading of the Minutes
 - a. Ace Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Angie Croll seconded. All ayes.
Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
 - a. Staff Reports were presented and discussed.
- iii. Business Agenda
 - a. New Business
 - i. Eckoff Donation
 1. Ron Eckoff, landowner, and Erin Van Waus, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, joined the WCCB to discuss the property Mr. Eckoff is planning to donate to WCCB.
 - ii. Approve New Conservation Technician
 1. Angie Croll made the motion to approve hiring Nathan Reinke for the Conservation Technician at Grade 10 Step 4, effective January 8, 2024. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - iii. Removal from Payroll
 1. Angie Croll made a motion to remove Monty Freeman as a seasonal effective December 8, 2023. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - b. Discussion Items
 - i. TAP Grant

1. Director Mark Wilson explained how the TAP Grant will work between Warren and Polk Counties. Snyder & Associates have split the trail up into 7 projects and have provided a cost to repair each section.
 2. If awarded the TAP Grant, Warren County will be the lead county. The Warren County Board of Supervisor have agreed to upfront costs that would then be reimbursed to the county.
 3. Director Wilson has also spoken with Des Moines MPO and asked for their assistance to write an RFP and they are willing to help.
- ii. Great Western Trail Funding
 1. Director Wilson met with the Renaissance Group to learn more about feasibility studies. This meeting was informational and helped enlighten the staff on how feasibility studies work.
- c. Financial Report
- i. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the financial reports. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- d. Approval of Bills
- i. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the claims. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- e. Adjournment
- i. Angie Croll made the motion to adjourn at 6:06pm. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.