

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 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
Joe Schettler, Secretary
Sue Boll
Angie Croll

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Absent:

Ace Hendricks, Vice-president

Also present:

Mark Wilson, Director
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist
Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator
Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist
Mallory Wells, Office Manager
Monty Freeman, FWCC Board Member

Guest:

Deb Schiel-Larson,
FWCC Vice President

- i. Reading of the Minutes
 - a. Angie Croll found a few corrections to the minutes.
 - i. Under reading of the minutes, it shows Sue Boll seconded the approval of the minutes, it should show Ace Hendricks seconded.
 - ii. Under Business Agenda, Discussion items, the word Director is missing an “r”.
 - b. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes. Angie Croll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
 - a. Staff Reports were presented.
- iii. Business Agenda
 - a. New Business
 - i. Trail signage
 1. Deb Schiel-Larson presented a project that the Friends of Warren County Conservation would like to proceed fundraising for. They would like to purchase signs to place along the bike trails that list the mile location as well as GPS location. This would allow trail users to know where they are along the trail in the event, they would need to call for emergency services. The board likes this idea and is excited for FWCC to move forward with the project.

- ii. Consider Snyder & Associates Proposal
 - 1. Joe Schettler made the motion to approve the proposal with Snyder & Associates. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- iii. Resolution for Joint Grant Application with Polk County
 - 1. Director Mark Wilson would like to apply for the TAPs grant with Polk County Conservation for the Great Western Trail. Polk County would like for Warren County to take the lead on the project. This means Warren County would have to front the money if the grant were awarded. Director Wilson is on the Warren County Board of Supervisors next work session to present this opportunity.
 - 2. Joe Schettler made the motion to do a joint grant with Polk County Conservation. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carries.
- iv. Middleswart Lodge Rental Rates for 2025
 - 1. Office Manager Mallory Wells presented changing the weekend package for calendar year 2025. The board discussed the rate and would like to see more supporting data to change rates. Mallory will report back after obtaining the data requested.
- b. Old Business
 - i. Budget change for septic system
 - 1. Director Mark Wilson has been working to get a quote for a new system. It was determined that a whole new septic system would need to be put in at a cost of roughly \$25,000.00.
 - 2. Director Wilson has a call into Moffit Trenching to get a quote for trenching the septic system.
- c. Discussion items
 - i. Great Western Trail Funding
 - 1. Director Wilson and Office Manager Wells spoke with Kelly Lainer-Arnold, Microsoft's Community Affairs, regarding funding for the GWT. The meeting went well.
 - ii. By-Laws
 - 1. Director Mark Wilson doesn't believe there is a need to change any of the by-laws currently. He would like any suggestions for changes to him by the end of November so they can be discussed at the December meeting.
- d. Financial Report
 - i. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the financial reports. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- e. Approval of Bills
 - i. Joe Schettler 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 6:20pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.