

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. 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:

Absent:

Mark Kickbush, President

Ace Hendricks, Vice-president

Joe Schettler, Secretary

Sue Boll

Angie Croll

Comprising a quorum of the board

Also present:

Mark Wilson, Director

Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist

Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist

Nathan Reinke, Conservation Tech

Mallory Wells, Officer Manager

Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator

Kato Stonebrook, Conservation Tech

Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer

- i. Reading of the Minutes
  - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the January minutes as written. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
  - a. Director
    - i. Mark attended the REAP meeting. The committee created a mission statement and set a list of goals. They are working on a 5 year plan to submit to the state.
  - b. EE Coordinator
    - i. Kelsey and Hannah inventoried all the salvage tag items and taxidermy in our storage room. They created a list to help maintain our inventory. This will help in the future when reapplying for USDA, FWS, and DNR permits.
    - ii. Kelsey attended the grant writing workshop and will be applying for the smaller grant through Warren County Philanthropic Grant for step stools in the restroom.
  - c. Naturalist
    - i. Hannah provided educational outreach to 399 people in the month of January. She made contacts with in the Indianola Community School District, Main Street School, Homeschool groups and Parks and Rec.

- d. Office Manager
  - i. Mallory opened reservations for the 2025 calendar year. Rentals can be booked one year in advance. On January 1<sup>st</sup> staff can start accepting reservations for the following calendar year.
  - ii. Mallory and Kato traveled to Iowa City to attend 2 days of training at Winterfest. She attended the Social Media presentation with Jessie Brown from the Iowa DNR, gaining useful information regarding data and usage of social media and how to use that information to increase your outreach.
- iii. Friends of Warren County Conservation
  - a. Monty Freeman presented the updates FWCC has made due to audits from the state Auditors.
    - i. WCCB staff must request funding and FWCC will make purchases needed.
    - ii. Bank statements are being checked monthly by 3 different members, including WCCB office manager Mallory Wells.
- iv. Business Agenda
  - a. New Business
    - i. Set March Meeting Date
      - 1. Sue Boll made a motion to move the March board meeting to Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 5pm at the Annett Nature Center. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
    - ii. Art Installation
      - 1. Director Mark Wilson is working with David Richmond on installing an art piece at the Annett Nature Center.
      - 2. Mark wrote an agreement for the art and had county attorney Dawn Bowman proof it. The updated contract was sent to David.
      - 3. WCCB will oversee the materials used for the project. Once it's installed WCCB will take ownership of the piece and will have it insured.
  - iii. Warren County Leadership Institute (WCLI) Project
    - 1. Two participants of the 2024 WCLI reached out to Director Mark Wilson and Office Manager Mallory Wells regarding their community class project. They are focusing on accessibility for the community. Mallory provided two projects with supporting data.
    - 2. The WCLI class has decided to move forward with raising funds for an all-terrain wheelchair. They would like to host a 5k run at the Annett Nature Center to raise funds for their project. Mallory will continue to work closely with the class to give support as needed.
- b. Discussion Items
  - i. Great Western Trail Crossing
    - 1. There are two locations within the Diligent Development in Cumming where builders would like to cross the Great Western Trail. The plans have not been finalized so there are no decisions that need to be made at this time.
  - ii. Great Western Trail Update
    - 1. Mark Wilson made the final request for reimbursement for the Iowa DOT. Once we get \$42,741.17 back WCCB will owe the county \$96,083.54. This payment would come out of the Federated Trail Funds being held at Edward R. Jones.

iii. Exhibit Hall Update

1. EE Coordinator Kelsey Longnecker and Naturalist Hannah Hernandez were able to see a couple of pieces for the wetland exhibit that will be installed around late March.
2. They have been working on finalizing the wording for the displays. Once those are complete, they can start the installation of the pieces.

iv. Nature Playscape

1. EE Coordinator Kelsey Longnecker and Naturalist Hannah Hernandez have been working on figuring out what pieces they would like in the playscape. Once they are set on a piece, they are researching vendors and pricing, then sending a packet of information to the architect.
2. The architects are working to make an overall blue print for the nature playscape. This will show where each piece will go and allow staff to move forward seeking donations.

v. Annett Nature Center Wetland

1. The Iowa DNR will be redoing the pipe on the west side of the wetland. Contrators will remove and replace the outlet pipe and riser. WCCB staff have started draining the wetland to allow room for the repairs.

c. Upcoming Events

- i. Naturalist Hannah Hernandez will be leading an Owl Prowl on February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ii. Day Camp registration will open on March 6<sup>th</sup>
- iii. Make and Take Rain Barrels will be held March 9<sup>th</sup>.

d. Financial Report

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

e. Approval of Bills

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

f. Adjournment

- i. Sue Boll made the motion to adjourn at 6:49pm. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.