

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 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:

Mark Kickbush, President
Ace Hendricks, Vice-president
Joe Schettler, Secretary
Angie Croll

Comprising a quorum of the board

Absent:

Sue Boll

Also present:

Mark Wilson, Director
Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator
Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist
Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer

Mallory Wells, Officer Manager
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Spe.
Mankato Stonebrook, Cons. Tech
Nathan Reinke, Cons. Tech.

- i. Reading of the Minutes
 - a. Ace Hendricks made a motion to approve the March regular and special meeting minutes as written. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
 - a. EE Coordinator
 - i. Staff met with Michelle Wilson to help streamline the marketing process. She helped provide a road map for how events should be posted and how the EE Coordinator, Naturalist, and Office Manager work together to make sure events are posted in a timely manner.
 - ii. Carlisle Archary reached 223 students each day. Due to the size of the classes both EE Coordinator and Naturalist attended this program.
- iii. Friends of Warren County Conservation
 - a. Monty Freeman met with the State Auditor's Office and was able to cross more items, from previous audits, off this year's audit. Due to small staff numbers, there are some items that will show up each year and that is ok.

iv. Business Agenda

a. New Business

i. Great Western Trail Easement

1. Director Mark Wilson shared that WCCB had received the \$5,000.00 easement payment in the mail. These funds will be used to help with trail maintenance.
2. There is currently on counter on the GWT. Director Wilson would like to have another counter added to the southern part of the trail to give a snapshot of the use on the two different areas of the trail. Joe Schettler expressed his interest in adding that additional counter to the GWT as well as two counters the Summerset Trail.
3. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the Great Western Trail Easement as written. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

ii. Change in Bylaws

1. Director Mark Wilson updated the Bylaws.
 - a. The new director will serve as the staff liaison with Friends of Warren County Conservation.
 - b. The Office Manager's pay grade was incorrect. It was updated to reflect Pay Grade 10. The Office Manager was removed as the staff liaison to Friends of Warren County Conservation.

iii. Approve Seasonal Hire

1. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the following seasonal hires effective May 13, 2024:
 - a. Jered Narber at \$12.00 per hour
 - b. Cael Meyer at \$12.00 per hour
 - c. Monty Freeman at \$14.60 per hour
 - d. Lucas Wilgenbush at \$13.00 per hour
- Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

b. Discussion Items

i. New Director Hire

1. Zachary Hall has accepted the Director's Position for Warren County Conservation.

ii. Music at Hickory Hill

1. Office Manager Mallory spoke with a member of the New Virginia Hometown Pride who was interested in starting up the Hickory Hoe Down. After discussing the event a bit the member said she would talk to her Hometown Pride group to see how they would like the event to look.
2. WCCB is interested in seeing how many people would come to the event, what it would look like and how we can partner. Mallory will follow up with the members of the hometown pride group and get back to the board.

iii. Exhibit Hall

1. Environmental Education Coordinator Kelsey has set a date for the installation of the Wetland exhibit as well as the Nocturnal Iowa exhibit under the stairs for the week of April 22nd.
2. She is still working on the Native Artifacts exhibit. She has been in contact with local Indigenous people, the Office of the State Archaeologist, as well as Gary Valen, who logged and categorized each piece.

iv. Nature Playscape

1. Environmental Education Coordinator Kelsey has 4 of the 6 habitats sent into Snyder & Associates. This includes a breakdown and cost for each piece they would like in the habitat. She is waiting for a few quotes to come back before she can get those sent in.
2. She thinks fundraising will go well once the grading and footing is done. This will allow people to see the design and layout of the playscape. There will also be a spot on each sign for the donor's name to be listed.
3. The board would like her to get some feedback on how hard the different types of materials will be to maintain.

v. MOTUS

1. Director Mark Wilson talked about the MOTUS module that is setting up towers throughout the US to monitor birds and insects that migrate. Friends of WCC members John and Kathy Krogmeier attend a program to learn about the program and present to the Friends group. The Friends group likes the idea of the program and wanted to reach out to WCCB before it moved forward with installing a tower for this project.
2. President Kickbush thinks this would be a great teaching tool for the Environmental Education Coordinator and Naturalist to share in their programs. This would give them actual data to use for animals that migrate through the Warren County Area.

c. Upcoming Events

- i. Naturalist Hannah Hernandez updated the board on upcoming events.

d. Financial Report

- i. Joe Schettler approved 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 April claims. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

f. Adjournment

- i. Joe Schettler made the motion to adjourn at 6:13pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.