

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 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

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. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the April 2024 minutes. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Staff Reports.
 - a. Staff reports were presented.
- iii. Friends of Warren County Conservation
 - a. They hosted an Earth Day event at the Annett Nature Center on April 20th. They have been busy getting ready for the Native Plant sale coming up on May 18th. They have had over 600 people interested in their event on Facebook. This year they are offering a free plant to FWCC members.
 - b. Ace Hendricks spoke with Joe Jenkins, Jenkins Garden Market in Carlisle. He is interested in working with the FWCC group for next year's plant sale.
- iv. Business Agenda
 - a. New Business
 - i. Approve By-Laws
 1. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the by-laws as written. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - ii. My County Parks
 1. Office Manager Mallory would like to set up a checking account for use with My County Parks (MCP). This is needed to take online reservations and payments through their system. She would like to move forward with People's Bank since Warren County uses People's as their financial institution.

2. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve setting up a checking account with People's Bank to use with My County Parks online payment system. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- iii. Wheelchair Policy
 1. Office Manager Mallory has been working with Assistant County Attorney Dawn Bowman to create a Waiver and Release of Liability for the use of the manual wheelchair. She received the approved document back.
 2. Angie Croll discussed having a check list that staff can go over with the guest using the chair prior to use as well as when the chair is returned. She would also like to see records of maintenance done to the chair. This would need to be kept for the entire lifespan of the chair.
 3. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the use of the Waiver & Release of Liability form for guests to rent the chair. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- iv. Great Western Trail Planning
 1. Director Mark Wilson discussed the upcoming plans for the trail. The estimated cost of the upcoming project will be around \$707,000.00.
- v. Medora Prairie Survey
 1. Director Mark Wilson is working with Chad Daniels, Daniels Land Surveying, to have the Medora Prairie surveyed. The boundaries of the park are not clear. This will help increase visibility of where the park boundaries are located.

b. Discussion Items

- i. Exhibit Hall Update
 1. EE Coordinator Kelsey Longnecker a tour of the finished Exhibit Hall. The Wetland and nocturnal exhibit were installed the week of April 22nd. Staff are still waiting on the bird watching seats to be delivered. Guests of the ANC have already been enjoying the exhibit.
- ii. Nature Playscape
 1. EE Coordinator Kelsey has submitted all the information to the architects. They will work to complete blueprints to send back for Kelsey to look over.
 2. EE Coordinator will start working on the signage for the playscape.
- iii. Fiscal 2025 Budget
 1. The Warren County Supervisors accepted the cut of the septic tank and approved the budget submitted by WCCB.
- iv. Eckoff Property Update
 1. All the papers have been signed and notarized by all parties and the Eckoff Nature Preserve is now officially under the care of the WCCB. This area will be a native area for guests to walk around and enjoy. There are lots of mature Oak Trees.
 2. There will be costs associated with access to the land. There is a driveway that is wide enough to accommodate one vehicle at a time. To allow access further into the park, it will cost to build the roadway and to add rock.

- v. Gilbert Property Update
 - 1. Director Mark Wilsom met with Ross Baxter to sign the option to purchase. Mr. Baxter gave the family \$10,000.00 to hold the land until WCCB can complete the REAP Grant.
- vi. US Fish and Wildlife Service Grassland Project
 - 1. They will be doing work at the Medora Prairie. They plan to take a drone video fly over before and after the project. They are going to be bringing in a marshal saw and forestry cutter and will work with Tyler to pull trunks down to clean up the area. WCCB will provide the fuel and they will provide the cleanup of the prairie then reseed Medora Prairie as well as the front of Gobbler's Knob.
- c. Upcoming Events
 - i. Staff discussed the upcoming events Dutch Oven, Plant Pot Painting, FWCC Native Plant Sale, Story Walk starts, Fire Starting at Moats Park, and Kids Fish Day.
- 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. Director Wilson is on schedule to spend down the budget to \$50,000.00.
 - ii. Joe Schettler would like to see the septic system for the pavilion replaced.
 - iii. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the claims. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- f. Adjournment
 - i. Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn at 6:08 pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.