

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 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

Zach Hall, Director

Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist

Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist

Mallory Wells, Office Manager

Kevin Brown, Cons. Tech

Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator

Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer

- i. Convene
  - a. Agenda deletions
    - i. None
- ii. Reading of the Minutes
  - a. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the October 2024 minutes as written. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
  - b. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the November 1, 2024, special meeting minutes as written. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- iii. Public Comment
  - a. None
- iv. Friends of Warren County Conservation
  - i. Monty Freeman presented the new logo to board members. They are looking to add member perks for memberships and continuing to support WCCB as they can.

v. Business Agenda

a. New Business

i. Removed Jered Naber from Payroll

1. Sue Boll made a motion to remove Jered Narber from payroll effective October 25, 2024. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes.  
Motion carried.

ii. Eckoff Nature Preserve

1. Director Hall has been working on updating the policies for the parks. Ace Hendricks asked about item number 3 "County Area. He asked about seed harvest. WCCB staff will still be able to harvest seeds from the areas to be planted throughout WCCB areas.
2. Director Wilson shared that the trails have been mowed and will be mowed every Monday next mowing season. The gates to the park have been installed and Tyler used the boom mower to clean up the entrance to the park. Signs will be posted along the boundaries once the park is ready to be opened.
3. Director Hall would like to do a soft opening in December to give Director Wilson the opportunity to see this project finished before he retires. He would also like to include a chamber or local group to do ribbon cutting in the spring.
4. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the Eckoff Nature Preserve Policies as written. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. Sue Boll made a motion to approve a soft opening of the Eckoff Nature Preserve. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes.  
Motion carried.

b. Discussion Items

i. WCCB GIS licensing package for conservations share – Fiscal Year '26

1. Director Hall has been working with Brandon Lane, Warren County Assessor GIS Coordinator, to get our areas updated on the county GIS System. After using this program, he would like to purchase a license to allow staff within the Conservation Department to use. This would allow staff to go in and create maps of WCCB areas, collect data, create wildlife plans, and help with grants without having to utilize the Assessors' office. This program will work with the DNR overlay. This would be a cost of \$5,500.00 annually. He is planning to include this in the fiscal year 2026.

ii. Security projects: cameras and signs

1. Directors Hall and Wilson met with County Attorney Doug Eichholz regarding security cameras. Eichholz would like to place license plate

readers at the entrance to a few of the Conservation parks. This reader will alert authorities if the plate is flagged.

2. The request from the County Attorney's office was \$250,000.00 for the cost of the cameras to be placed. Director Hall expressed placing one at the ANC as the priority since most programs are based out of the ANC.
3. Warren County has been working with Employee Family Resources to provide suicide hotline flyers to place in Conservation Parks. The signs should all be in place on the information boards by spring of 2025.

iii. Winterfest Training

1. Director Hall would like to see staff attend Winterfest in January. This is a great opportunity to learn and network with other conservation departments.

iv. Trail Markers

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation have been working on the idea of getting trail markers for the Great Western Trail. At this time, they have tabled the signs so they can focus on fundraising.

v. My County Parks

1. Director Hall and Office Manager Wells are working to get the site up and running by March of 2025. They have been working to get WCCB information updated so it will be updated and ready to roll out when the time comes.

vi. Ike's Meeting

1. Office Manager Mallory was asked to provide a short presentation for the Warren County Izaak Walton League. She gave a presentation on what WCCB is and does. Director Hall was able to join and answer questions. The group vocalized they will be donating \$5,000.00 to use for the Gilbert addition or the motorized wheelchair.

c. Approval of Bills

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

d. Financial Report

- i. Director Hall provided the board with a snapshot of the monthly financials and will do so each month. This will show the board where the budget is each month.
- ii. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the financial report. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

e. Upcoming Events

- i. WCCB will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be placed around the center with booths explaining what they do and are doing for WCCB and the board should mix and mingle with guests.

f. Staff Reports

i. Director

1. Director Hall met with the Board of Supervisors, and they have agreed to purchase the Gilbert Addition and then REAP will repay the funds. They have agreed to sign a 28E agreement.
2. Assistant County Attorney Dawn Bowman has the abstract that has been done and will work on a budget amendment.

ii. Environmental Education Coordinator

1. EE Coordinator Kelsey received a paper copy of the playscape plans to use to start fundraising. It also showed the main piece that she would like to have placed in the prairie that will stand above the plants for visitors to see from the roadway.

g. Adjournment

- i. Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn at 6:10 pm. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.