

Minutes of the

Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center.

Meeting called to order by President Mark Kickbush at 5:00 p.m.

Due to the weather this meeting was postponed from Wednesday February 12, 2025, to Thursday February 13, 2025.

Those present:

Mark Kickbush, President

Angie Croll, Secretary

Sue Boll

Ace Hendricks

Comprising a quorum of the board.

Absent:

Joe Schettler, Vice President

Staff present:

Zach Hall, Director

Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist

Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator

Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist

Mallory Wells, Office Manager

Guests:

Shannon Anderson

Gary Hutchison

Nate Graham

Larry Briant

- i. Convene
 - a. Agenda Review
 1. Angie Croll moved to accept the agenda as written. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- ii. Reading of the Minutes
 - a. Sue Boll made a motion to accept the January 2025 minutes as written. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- iii. Public Comment
 - a. Shannon Anderson, Warren County resident, voiced his concerns for public hunting at Medora Prairie.
 - b. Gary Hutchison, Warren County resident, voiced his concerns for public hunting at Medora Prairie.
 - c. Nate Graham, Warren County resident, voiced his concerns for public hunting at Medora Prairie.
 - d. Larry Briant, Warren County resident, voiced his concerns for public hunting at Medora Prairie.
- iv. Friends of Warren County Conservation
 - a. FWCC board has worked to update their mission. They have solidified their committees and updated their by-laws. They have updated their brochures with their new logos.
- v. Business Agenda
 - a. New Business
 1. Red Lion Solar:
 - a. Director Hall has been meeting with Terry Dvorak of Red Lion Renewables. They have discussed putting solar panels on the grounds of the Annett Nature Center, Middleswart Lodge and the Maintenance Shop.

- b. WCCB would not own the equipment Red Lion Renewables would and they would take care of the maintenance to the equipment, no maintenance would need to be done by WCCB staff. WCCB would buy the energy from Red Lion to bring down their monthly utility bills.
 - c. Sue Boll made a motion to allow Director Hall to enter into a power to purchase agreement contract with Red Lion Renewables for solar. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 2. Great Western Trail Easement
 - a. McClair contracting company reached out to Director Hall regarding a public utilities easement along the Great Western Trail. Assistant County Attorney Dawn Bowman has looked over the easement and gave the approval for the WCCB to approve the easement.
 - b. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the easement. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b. 2025 Camping Rates
 - a. Director Hall has spoken with conservation staff about the cost of camping and though out the different WCCB Parks. Statistically Warren County has the cheapest rate for primitive camping within our district.
 - b. Director Hall pulled rates from surrounding counties, and they ranged anywhere from \$10.00 per night to \$15.00 per night. He proposed upping WCCB's primitive camping rate to \$10.00 per night.
 - c. Sue Boll made a motion to set the primitive camping rate to \$10.00 per night. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- c. Gilbert's Addition
 - a. Director Hall has not heard back from the Iowa DNR grant administration regarding our appraisal.
 - b. Now that WCCB has purchased the Gilbert Addition, Director Hall would like guidance on how the board would like to move forward with policies for the property.
 - c. After discussion the board would like to see the policies for the Gilbert addition match the policies for Woodland Mounds State Preserve. Director Hall will work to get those policies together to present at the April board meeting.
- d. Discussion Items
 - 1. Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Consideration
 - a. Director Hall presented a map of Rolling Thunder State Reserve that he received from Jerren Sears, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The management plan for Rolling Thunder implements removal of all woody debris and trees within the ravine of Rolling Thunder State Preserve to prioritize the diversity of grasslands, pollinators, and ground nesting birds.
 - 2. The prairie is being overtaken by woody debris that degrades the composition of the landscape. Restoring into grassland prairie will permit improved safety for prescribed fire, allowing us to manage our property's more efficiently, allowing the continuation of all populations that utilize prairie eco-systems, and will fit the approved management plan set forth by the state preserves board.
 - a. The project could be bid as one project but depending on the price it may need to be split into two different projects. USFWS would like to see the board match dollar for

dollar on the cost of the project. Director Hall stated the only way to get a project of this size would be with the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Development Fund. If applying for the grant we may have to reach out to our external partners for additional funding.

- b. The management plan for Rolling Thunder State Preserve is up to date and staff would share that with USFWS so they know what they can and cannot do on the property.

3. Engineering Meetings

- a. Director Hall and Natural Resource Specialist Seufferer met with WHKS to discuss the bridge inspections that have been done and to request assistance with the suspension bridge at Zo-El Bridge. They also met with a road engineer to discuss the road bridges at Grant Nature land and Middleswart Lodge. Eventually the bridges at Middleswart Lodge and Grant Nature land will need to be redone to increase accessibility.

4. By-laws

- a. Director Hall made the changes to the by-laws that were discussed at the January meeting, and they have been finalized for the year.

5. Loess Hill Fire Cooperative

- a. Director Hall has signed up conservation staff to attend the Loess Hills Fire Cooperative Burn Week. The Natural Resource Officer and Conservation Technicians will be headed to Loess Hills to get training on prescribed burns.

e. Approval of Bills

- 1. President Kickbush questioned \$300.00 being paid to the Warren County Fair. This claim is to rent a booth during the fair for public outreach.
- 2. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the claims. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

f. Financial Report

- 1. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the financial report. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

g. Upcoming Events -Education Staff shared upcoming events.

h. Staff Reports – WCCB staff provided a summary of their work load.

i. Adjournment

- 1. Sue Boll made a motion to adjourn. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.