

Minutes of the

Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Joe Schettler at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

Joe Schettler, Vice President

Angie Croll, Secretary

Ace Hendricks

Comprising a quorum of the board.

Absent:

Mark Kickbush, President

Sue Boll

Staff present:

Zach Hall, Director

Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist

Kevin Brown, Conservation Tech

Mankato Stonebrook, Conservation Tech

Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist

Reagan , Summer Naturalist

Mallory Wells, Office Manager

Monty Freeman, Friends WCC Board Member

Guests:

Nichoel Church, IWINAR Board Member

Deb Schiel-Larson, IWINAR volunteer mentor

Convene

a. Agenda Review

1. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the agenda. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.

ii. Reading of the Minutes

1. Angie Croll found a correction to the April minutes. Under Business Agenda, New Business, item “a”, Hire 2025 Summer Seasonals item. The motion is missing the second of the motion, which Ace Hendricks stated he performed that second prior to an approved vote.
2. Angie Croll made the motion to correct April’s minutes to reflect these actions, seconded by Ace Hendricks. All ayes. Motion carried.

iii. Public Comment

a. None

iv. Friends of Warren County Conservation

- a. Monty Freeman provided a QR code for the FWCC group, which takes you to the new FWCC website. Website visitors will be able to locate the plants that will be sold at the Native Plant sale. FWCC is hosting their native plant sale on Saturday, May 17th. FWCC members are excited to provide guests with information regarding the plants, and other functions FWCC performs

v. Business Agenda

a. New Business

1. Iowa Women in Natural Resources (IWINAR)
 - a. Nichoel Church presented on IWINAR. This organization is dedicated to the professional development of individuals interested in working in the natural resource field. Each year they host two camps, Outdoor Journey for girls, that allows young girls from ages 12-15 learn more about the outdoors. They also host an annual conference for those in the conservation field to network with others across a variety of sectors.
 - b. The board of IWINAR would like to use the Middleswart Lodge to host their annual conference in February of 2026.
 - c. Ace Hendricks made a motion to allow the IWINAR to utilize the Middleswart Lodge on Friday February 27, 2026, for their annual conference, at no charge. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
2. City of Cumming
 - a. Director Hall presented a new easement for the bike trail near Cumming. There is a 3rd and 4th connection being put in as planned. The WCCB does not like that the city moved forward without prior approval for the trail crossings.
 - b. Ace Hendricks made a motion to approve the easement as presented. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Conservation Ecologist
 - a. Director Hall would like to publish the Conservation Ecologist with a maximum pay range of \$60,000.00. WCCB advised for the position to be posted.
4. Land Donation
 - a. Director Hall shared that Terry Gilbert would like to donate .6 acres directly to the WCCB. Director Hall has been communicating with Assistant County Attorney Dawn Bowman, who is willing to handle the paperwork.
 - b. Angie Croll made a motion to directly accept the donation of .6 acres from Terry Gilbert. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

b. Discussion Items

- a. Warren County Philanthropic Grant Update
 - a. WCCB was awarded \$3,419.09 to put towards a handicapped accessible door. Office Manager Wells has been working with Doors, INC. to get the doors installed.
- b. My County Parks Update
 - a. Office Manager Wells has been working to update the photos, contract information, and block out dates on the reservation calendar to prepare for a July 1st kick off date for online payments. Office Manager Wells and Director Hall will perform a test run on the program to make sure everything works.
- c. REAP Grant
 - a. Director Hall shared this grant contract is complete. WCCB has received and deposited a check for \$495,000.00 to repay the Warren County Board of Supervisors (BoS). Director Hall will work with the county budget director to determine our department's transfer of funds for WCCB's share of the matching funds.

- d. Forestry Management
 - a. Director Hall is going to start working on a grant for Forestry Management. There is a minimum amount of \$100,000.00 for the project to be considered. He is currently working with Forester, Zach Nie, who is writing 3 different management plans. The grant will be due July 3, 2025.
 - b. WCCB will need to provide 20% match for the project. Director Hall has been analyzing department account balances and plans to apply for the Wildlife Habitat Stamp grant to help with funding in November.
- e. State Recreation Trails Grant
 - a. Director Hall started work on the SRT Grant. Director Hall is strategizing where to pull funds to cover the cost of the grant match. WCCB already issued \$50,000.00 and will need to come up with an additional \$194,500.00. WCCB is going to try to find financial partners to help fund this project.
 - b. Director Hall will be in touch with our BoS to see if they will do a 1:1 match. He will reach out to FWCC and IKES. He will also be looking for letters of support from the City of Martensdale, Cumming, and Norwalk.
- f. Maintenance Tech Position
 - a. Director Hall has received quite a few excellent applications. He will be going through the applications with NRS Seufferer and they will be setting up interviews.
- c. Open Discussion
 - 1. Solar Panels
 - a. Director Hall reported that Solar Panel Construction is moving forward and will be installed soon.
 - 2. Board Resignation
 - a. The WCCB received notice from Sue Boll that she has resigned from the board effective immediately.
- d. Approval of Bills
 - 1. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- e. Financial Report
 - 1. Angie Croll made a motion to accept the financial report. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- f. Upcoming Events
 - 1. Education Staff shared upcoming events.
- g. Staff Reports
 - 1. WCCB staff provided a summary of their workload.
- h. Adjournment
 - 1. Ace Hendricks made a motion to adjourn the meeting and move into a closed session at 6:30pm. Angie Croll Seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.