

Minutes of the

Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 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.

Those present:

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

Comprising a quorum of the board.

Absent:

Staff present:

Zach Hall, Director
Tyler Seufferer, Natural Resource Specialist
Kevin Brown, Conservation Tech
Mankato Stonebrook, Conservation Tech
Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist
Reagan Fitch, Summer Naturalist

Guests:

Convene

i. Call to order

ii. Agenda Review

1. Director Hall would like to amend the agenda by removing item 4 under New Business, Forest Resiliency Partnership Grant Resolution.
2. Joe Schettler made a motion to remove Forest Resiliency Partnership Grant Resolution from the agenda. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

iii. Reading of the Minutes

1. Ace Hendricks made the motion to approve the May 2025 regular and closed session minutes as presented. Seconded by Angie Croll. All ayes. Motion carried.

iv. Public Comment

1. None

v. Friends of Warren County Conservation

1. Director Hall shared the FWCC report. They hosted pop up plant sale during a tourism event on June 6th and 7th.
2. The FWCC voted to commit \$25,000.00 to WCCB State Rec. Trails Grant, contingent on WCCB being selected for an award.

vi. Business Agenda

a. New Business –

a. FWCC Lodge – Prairie Picnic Donation

- i. The board discussed donating use of Middleswart Lodge to Friends of WCC to use as an auction item for the upcoming prairie picnic. The board would like to move forward with a certificate for FWCC to auction off as they have done in the past.

b. SRT budgets and resolution to apply

- i. Transfers to Reserve Account
- ii. The STR grant is due July 1st. The project will cover 1.47 miles from the Great Western Trail head in Martensdale to 30th avenue.
- iii. To apply WCCB needs 25% matching funds, minimum or \$194,500.00. The Warren County Supervisors (BoS) voted to approve paying for the cost of the repairs up front then be reimbursed if WCCB is awarded the grant. The BoS also voted to provide \$85,000.00 of support for the project if WCCB is awarded the grant.
- iv. Recall, FWCC voted to support the project with \$25,000.00 if WCCB is awarded the grant.
- v. Joe Schettler made a motion to apply to the SRT at a 30% funding level, with WCCB covering up to \$123,400.00 of the total project cost for the SRT grant. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

c. Forest Management Plans – summary

- i. Director Hall has been working with Zach Nie to create plans for Gobbler's Knob, Hickory Hills, Otter Creek, and Woodland Mounds State Preserve.
- ii. The first round of grant submission was to be July 3rd. Director Hall received notification that the batch period in July will not be held due to the administration of the grant program. WCCB's application will now be submitted in October.

d. Forest resiliency Partnership grant resolution

- i. Removed

e. FY26 Salary Certifications

- i. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the salary certifications as presented. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

vii. Discussion Items

1. Maintenance Technician hiring process

- a. Director Hall and Park Supervisor Seufferer have been working to go through the applications and have decided to interview 6.

2. Conservation Ecologist hiring process

- a. Director Hall received approval for closing the job posting and to start the interview process.

3. WMSP farming agreement – 2026
 - a. Director Hall was contacted by Dennis Oliver regarding the alfalfa field on the east side of Woodland Mounds State Preserve. He would like to plant row crops, beans, for one year then go back to planting alfalfa due to the toxicity levels in the ground making it hard to grow alfalfa. The board would like him to move forward with the beans in 2026.
4. ICCS Fall Conference – Lake Okoboji 2025
 - a. Director Hall would like to invite the Conservation Board to attend the ICCS Fall Conference in Lake Okoboji. This would allow the board a chance to see and study Clay and Dickenson County Conservation Boards projects.
5. Open Discussion
 - a. The Warren County Board of Supervisors received an application to replace Sue Boll. That applicant will be voted on at the June 17, 2025, meeting. This person will fill the remainder of Sue's term to 12/2026.

viii. Upcoming Events

1. Education staff shared upcoming events.

ix. Approval of Bills

1. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

x. Financial Report

1. Angie Croll made a motion to accept the financial report. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

ii. Staff Reports

1. WCCB staff provided a summary of their workload.

iii. Adjournment

1. Angie Croll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm. Ace Hendricks Seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.