

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 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  
Jake Sickels

*Comprising a quorum of the board.*

Absent:

Staff present:

Zach Hall, Director  
Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator  
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist  
Kevin Brown, Conservation Tech  
Mankato Stonebrook, Conservation Tech  
Colton Schwenke, Maintenance Tech  
Jon Livermore, Conservation Ecologist  
Mallory Wells, Office Manager  
Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer

Guests:

Convened at 5:00pm.

**i. Call to order**

**ii. Agenda Review**

1. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ace, all were in favor. Motion carried.

**iii. Minutes**

1. Joe Schettler made the motion to approve the July 2025 minutes as presented. Seconded by Ace Hendricks. All ayes. Motion carried.

**iv. Public Comment**

1. None

**v. Friends of Warren County Conservation**

1. Monty Freeman is communicating with WCCB staff to improve the lodge. They discussed adding a screen, projector, and acoustic panels to help with noise. The FWCC board voted to approve the purchase of a projector and screen at a cost of \$11,800.00.
2. They are working on this year's Prairie Picnic which will be held at Middleswart Lodge on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. This year they are offering a kayak, paddle, and life jacket to guests who purchase their tickets early.

## **vi. Business Agenda**

### **1. New Business –**

- a. New Hire – Jon Livermore
  - a. Joe Schettler made a motion to hire Jon Livermore, effective August 4, 2025. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.
- b. NWTF Grant - Due September 1st.
  - a. Angie Croll made a motion to approve resolution 25-33 for the National Wildlife Turkey Federation Grant. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- c. EmbarkIT Quote
  - a. Director Hall is working with EmbarkIT to install a projector, screen, and acoustic paneling at the lodge. FWCC approved the purchase of a projector and a screen, leaving \$6,166.00 to purchase the acoustic paneling.
  - b. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the purchase of acoustic paneling for \$6,166.00. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- d. ZO-EL Steps Installation
  - a. Park Superintendent Seuferer presented a quote to finish the final stretch of stair replacement at ZO-EL Annett Woods.
  - b. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the purchase of the steps for ZO-EL Annett Woods. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- e. Park Photos
  - a. Marketing
    - i. Office Manager Wells reached out to Aaron Miller Photography to see about getting photos of the Hickory Hills Barn and Shelter, Lester Davison Memorial Pavilion, and the Middleswart Lodge to have photos taken for marketing purposes.
  - ii. Display
    - 1. Director Hall would like to have professional photos taken of our parks to hang in the classroom for visitors to see
    - 2. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve up to \$1,800.00 for photos of WCCB managed areas. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

## **vii. Discussion Items**

### **1. Art Sculpture**

- a. Director Hall and WCCB reviewed the contracted agreement for the Art Installation for the Monarch Skyway Statue, the WCCB staff labor for the project to date, and communication for the project. WCCB's census is to keep to our contractual agreements for this project.

### **2. CCDA**

- a. Directors Association will be next week, and Director Hall is currently the Vice President and will be stepping into the President role. This will take some of his time from WCCB. The board is supportive of this role for Director Hall.

### **3. Land Donation Process**

- a. The Gilbert Family attorney needs some more time to write the required documents for the donation.
- b. The Lawson property first option to buy was never signed by the WCCB and was not filed with the recorder.

- c. Joe Schettler would like Director Hall to move forward, working with Blair Lawson to get the proper paperwork completed and filed for WCCB to have the first option to purchase the property.
- 4. County Ordinances Processing
  - a. Dawn Bowman reached out to the Director Hall regarding WCCB policies. She had been working with the former Director Wilson on turning our park policies into county ordinances. The county is working on updating the county ordinances and this is the perfect time to get our policies added to the county ordinances.
- 5. McVay Trail Update
  - a. Director Hall received a call from Indianola Parks and Recreation Director Doug Bylund. They have closed the Summerset Trail near 9th street due to it failing. Director Bylund is working to figure out how to repair the trail. Director Hall thinks this would be a great time to start working with local entities to repair it together.
- 6. Playscape
  - a. Director Hall and Environmental Education Coordinator (EEC) Longnecker have been working on the Playscape and would like some guidance from the board on: What is the vision? Do you want it to be a tourist attraction? Where do you see this project? EEC Longnecker looks to this project as a destination for visitors to want to come and visit.
  - b. EEC Longnecker shared that she received a map to show the grading and concrete work, along with the cost, needed to get this project off the ground. What she presented would be Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 would be completing the inside areas. Phase 3 would be adding a restroom and lighting. With the final phase, four, finishing the outer areas of the playscape.
  - c. The board would like to have Director Hall and EEC Longnecker contact our firm and other firms to inquire about pursuing to get this project completed.
- 7. Swamp White Oak Management
  - a. A neighbor has reached out to trade land near the Swamp White Oak area. The board is not in favor of any kind of trade or land purchase.
- 8. Comprehensive List to Strategic Plan Development
  - a. Director Hall, Park Superintendent Seuferer, Environmental Education Coordinator Longnecker, Office Manager Wells met to discuss priorities on the strategic plan and will continue to do so throughout the year.
- 9. Open Discussion
  - a. Fence
    - a. Staff spent two days installing the fence at the Medora Prairie. The fence will be done within a week. Property signs are ordered and will be placed as soon as they arrive.
  - b. Osprey Tower
    - a. Park Superintendent Seuferer was notified of a hole on the top deck of the tower. He was able to repair the deck but was concerned about the overall safety of the structure. He would like to remove the tower due to safety concerns. The board supports the removal of the tower.
  - c. Flood Plain Control (FPC)
    - a. Director Hall has been in contact with Assistant County Attorney Bowman regarding the county ordinances being updated. They are working on the Zoning ordinances and Director Hall is wanting to continue to be a part of this conversation.

#### **viii. Upcoming Events**

1. Education staff shared upcoming events.

**ix. Approval of Bills**

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

**x. Financial Report**

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

**xi. Staff Reports**

1. WCCB staff provided a summary of their workload.

**xii. Adjournment**

1. Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.