

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 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
Ace Hendricks
Jake Sickels

Comprising a quorum of the board.

Absent:

Mark Kickbush, President
Angie Croll, Secretary

Staff present:

Zach Hall, Director
Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coordinator
Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist
Kevin Brown, Conservation Tech
Colton Schwenke, Maintenance Tech
Mankato Stonebrook, Maintenance Tech
Jon Livermore, Conservation Ecologist
Mallory Wells, Office Manager

Guests:

Convene

i. Call to order

ii. Agenda Review

1. Ace Hendricks made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Jake Sickles seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried

iii. Reading of the Minutes

1. Ace Hendricks made the motion to approve the September 2025 regular minutes as presented. Jake Sickles seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

iv. Public Comment

1. None

v. Friends of Warren County Conservation

1. FWCC hosted their annual Prairie Picnic, and they received lots of positive feedback regarding the sound panels that were installed.
2. FWCC received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be used for bike trail repair.

vi. Business Agenda

- a. New Business –
 - a. None

vii. Discussion Items

1. Domestic Animals
 - a. Director Hall has been working with Assistant County Attorney Bowman in regard to domestic rabbits being dumped at the Annett Nature Center.
2. Medora Prairie
 - a. Maintenance Tech Schwenke shared that signs have been posted, and the prairie is open for hunting.
3. NWTf Grant
 - a. Ecologist Livermore was awarded the Iowa NWTf Superfund Grant for \$3,912. These funds will be used to match a larger grant application to restore forest health on WCCB properties.
4. FRP and TASA Support from the BoS
 - a. The Warren County Board of Supervisors have agreed to provide the upfront cost of the Forest Resilience Partnership grant (FRP) and Transportation Alternative Set-Aside grants (TASA) if we are awarded the grants.
 - b. Director Hall will know if WCCB was awarded the State Recreational Trails (SRT) grant in the coming weeks. If they are awarded the SRT grant Director Hall will pull his TASA grant application.
 - c. FRP is a grant the Iowa DNR is offering for a limited time. WCCB will submit an application and if awarded will work with the NWTf Grant. Conservation Ecologist Livermore shared the grant would cover arial spraying at Otter Creek, TSI and invasive species removal at Woodland Mounds, TSI and invasive species removal at Hickory Hills and planting oak trees on 3.2 acres as Gobbler's Knob. These projects would be used to contract externally to jumpstart major, necessary Natural Resource Management of our public properties.
 - d. Director Hall and Ecologist Livermore will be applying for the Habitat Stamp Grant to match additional grant funding.
5. Trail Maintenance Agreement
 - a. Director Hall was communicating with the City of Indianola regarding a washout on the McVay Trail. There was confusion as to who owns this portion of this trail. The City of Indianola owns and manages the McVay Trail and the WCCB owns and manages the Summerset Trail.
6. WHKS Bridge Inspection Report
 - a. The Middleswart Lodge bridge passed the inspection and is highway rated for legal trucks.
 - b. Zo-El Bridge has some work that could be done but is not immediately needed.
7. Playscape
 - a. Environmental Education Coordinator Longer and Director Hall have met with a planning provider, and they were very specific on what our needs are at this time.
 - b. Longnecker and Hall will be meeting with Mahaska County Director to learn the process their department went through to get their playscape installed.

8. Strategic Plan Development

- a. There has been no movement on the Strategic Plan as staff have been working on grants, training, and department communication. Director Hall met with Bolton & Menk, Inc. representative Emily Naylor. Her specialty is master planning for county conservation boards, and Hall is interested in working with her to create a multi-park master plan.

9. New Employee School & E-Commerce Trainings

- a. Ecologist Livermore & Maintenance Tech. Schwenke will be attending new employee school on October 21st.
- b. Director Hall, EEC Longnecker, and Office Manager Wells will be attending the E-Commerce Training on October 22nd.
- c. Park Superintendent Seuferer will be attending leadership training on October 15th and 16th.

viii. Upcoming Events

1. Staff shared the upcoming events.

ix. Approval of Bills

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

x. Financial Report

1. My County Parks

- a. Wells Office Manager shared the revenue from MCP. She worked on a deposit form and made the first deposit for July and August 2025 MCP income.

2. Year to Date

- a. Director Hall shared his year-to-date financial report.

- xi. Ace Hendricks made a motion to accept the financial report. Jake Sickles seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

ii. Staff Reports

1. WCCB staff provided a summary of their workload.

iii. Adjournment

1. Ace Hendricks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27pm. Jake Sickles seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.