

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The meeting was held in person at the Anette Nature Center.

## **Those present:**

Mark Kickbush, President  
Joe Schettler, Vice President  
Angie Croll, Secretary  
Ryan Williams

*Comprising a quorum of the board.*

## **Staff present:**

Zach Hall, Director  
Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coord.  
Hannah Van Loon, Naturalist  
Tyler Seuferer, Park Super.  
Kevin Brown, Conservation Tech  
Colton Schwenke, Maintenance Tech  
Jon Livermore, Conservation Ecologist  
Mallory Wells, Office Manager

## **Absent:**

Mankato Stonebrook, Conservation Tech  
Mallory Wells, Office Manager  
Jake Sickels

## **Guests:**

Maximillion's Muddy Puddles Foundation (MMP)  
Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer

## **Convene**

- I. Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Kickbush at 5:00 p.m.
- II. Agenda Review**
  1. Schettler made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted, Croll seconded, and all were in favor. Motion carried.
- III. Review the Minutes**
  1. Schettler made the motion to approve the regular March 2026 minutes as presented, Croll seconded, and all were in favor. Motion carried.
- IV. Public Comment**
  1. None
- V. Friends of Warren County Conservation (FWCC)**
  1. Freeman shared that the FWCC received \$38,000 from their deer tag auction this year, and half of that goes to the DNR. Plant sales are May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Annett Nature Center. Other FWCC members have been working with Hall on Great Western Trail signage to assist fundraising efforts for the next grant application cycle.
- VI. Business Agenda**
  - 1. New Business –**
    - a) **Maximillion's Muddy Puddles Foundation – Splash Pad** – Two representatives of MMP discussed their fundraising efforts on a splash pad project in Indianola. Location has not been solidified and efforts to find partnerships and grant opportunities were being pursued.
      - (a) No motion took place on this topic.

- b) **Request to hire Seasonal Employees** – Seuferer and Longnecker presented on their plans to hire seasonals for summer 2026.
  - (a) Schettler made the motion to have Hall approve of hiring the needed seasonals for the department within the current budget limits. The motion was seconded by Croll, and all were in favor. Motion carried.
- c) **Public Hunting: Otter Creek** - Hall presented statistics on WCCB's owned and managed properties, stating that of 2,700 acres 54.35% are available for public hunting with any means of "take". Otter Creek's initial funding source to establish the park was the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Iowa DNR records and WCCB staff confirmed that hunting is a legal recreational policy the WCCB could consider adding to the property.
  - (a) Schettler made the motion to pass hunting aligning with Iowa's laws, starting with youth season on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Williams seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Motion carried.

## 2. Discussion Items

### a) Staff Computers

- (a) Hall presented numbers and options to upgrade three staff computers estimated at \$8,000. These will be ordered prior to the next board meeting.

### b) Grant Nature Land Report

- (a) Seuferer discussed that this park should be considered for future hunting opportunity because of its size and it's surrounded by hunting property. There was more research to consider prior to initiating policy changes.

### c) FY26 Vehicle Planning

- (a) Seuferer shared estimated costs on a vehicle that the staff would like to purchase to help improve department operations. Hall requested this item to be decided at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### d) Prescribed Fire updates

- (a) Seuferer discussed the total acres burned and the total remaining acres needing prescribed fire this year.

### e) SRT Contract Updates

- (a) Hall shared that the grant's pre-construction meeting was April 13<sup>th</sup> with Howry Construction and Snyder and Associates at the Annett Nature Center. Hall estimated the bike trail project would be started earlier than summer, but dates won't be known until the pre-con meeting.

### f) Playscape Planning Updates

- (a) Longnecker shared that the playscape planning committee designated donation levels and shared them with our contractors. Grant writing and financial marketing strategies are being discussed in the playscape development process.

### g) Upcoming Events

- (a) Staff shared the upcoming events, highlighting the success of geocaching throughout our parks.

## 3. Financial Report

### a) My County Parks

- (i) Hall shared the income from My County Parks for the month of March. Revenue was mostly from educational programming and facility rentals. In one month, programs and camp registration brought in 50% of what camping revenue brings in all year round.

### b) Year to Date

- (a) Hall presented the year-to-date budget, with 29.5% of our total budget remaining and 2 more expenditure months remained this year. Budget is currently healthy with room for end of year projects.
- (b) Schettler made a motion to accept the financial reports, seconded by Croll, and all were in favor. Motion carried.

**c) Approval of Bills**

- (a) After the monthly bills were reviewed, Schettler made a motion to approve the bills as submitted, Williams seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Motion carried.
- (b) Hall presented two additional bills totaling \$28,000 from the playscape design process that the WCCB could consider paying this month or wait until Mays expenses. Hall stated advice from the county budget director was as long as the bottom line was not exceeded, expense can be made. These expense funds were also donated to WCCB by FWCC for the playscape planning process.
  - (i) Schettler made the motion to pay the bills for the playscape design, seconded by Williams, and all were in favor. Motion carried.

**4. Staff Reports**

- a) WCCB staff shared what they were most proud of since the last board meeting.

**5. Adjournment**

- a) Schettler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm, Croll seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.