

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. 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
Jake Sickels
Ryan Williams

Comprising a quorum of the board.

Absent:

Staff present:

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

Guests:

Tyler Jensen, Snyder and Associates
Casey Byers, Bolten & Menk

Convene

a) Call to order

b) Agenda Review

i) Joe Schettler made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Angie Croll seconded. All aye. Motion carried

c) Review the Minutes

i) Joe Schettler made the motion to approve the regular February 2026 minutes as presented. Angie Croll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

d) Public Comment

i) None

e) Friends of Warren County Conservation (FWCC)

i) Treasurer Freeman shared the FWCC group received a deer tag to auction off this year. Ashley Homer has started working on getting plants ready for the plant sale that will be held in May.

f) Business Agenda

i) New Business –

(1) Playscape - Casey Byers with Bolton & Menk shared the plans for the Nature playscape and answered questions and concerns from the board.

(2) Public Hearing: Great Western Trail , Engineer’s Estimate, and Specifications.

- (a) Joe Schettler made a motion to move into public hearing at 5:30 pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
- (b) No Public Comment.
- (c) Joe Schettler made a motion to move out of public hearing at 5:31 pm. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(3) Resolve to adopt Great Western Trail Plans, Engineer’s Estimate, Specifications, and Form of Contract.

- (a) Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the Great Western Trail Plans, Engineer’s Estimate, Specifications, and Form of Contract. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(4) Engineer’s Recommendations to Award the SRT project.

- (a) Tyler Jensen shared the results of the public bid process and recommended Howrey Construction, Inc. for phase 2 of the Great Western Trail project.
- (b) Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the hiring of Howrey Construction, Inc. for Phase 2 repairs to the Great Western Trail. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(5) Great Western Trail Rehab. Phase 2: Construction Phase Services

- (a) Angie Croll made a motion to approve the Supplemental Construction Service Agreement with Snyder and Associates as presented. Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(6) Special Use Permit

- (a) Angie Croll made a motion to approve the Special Permit request by the Iowa Bicycle Coalition to use the Great Western Trail for organizing a bike ride. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(7) Nature Center Hours

- (a) Due to staff input, Director Hall presented changing the Annett Nature Center hours from 8 am to 4:30pm to 8:30 am to 4pm Monday through Friday.
- (b) Angie Croll made a motion to change the Annett Nature Center hours to 8:30 am to 4pm Monday through Friday. Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(8) Grant Nature Land Lawncare

- (a) Park Superintendent Seuferer shared quotes from lawn care companies to mow at Grant Nature Land. This would open up staff to other jobs as needed.
- (b) The board would like to table this option.

(9) FY 26 & FY27 Budgets

- (a) Director Hall met with the Warren County Board of Supervisors, and they didn’t ask for details on WCCB’s requested FY26 amendment. While discussing FY27, they informed him that WCCB would be getting a 7.3% increase to their bottom line and a tentative \$380,000.00 match for the Great Western Trail to cover repairs from highway G14 to county line road.

(10) Can Collection for revenue.

- (a) Staff would like to collect cans from rentals for possible revenue. This would entail having a can collection area for rentals to place their cans for staff to return. WCCB did not object. No vote taken.

(11) Donation Review

- (a) Director Hall presented that he has received a request to donate a boat and trailer to WCCB. With staff just getting certified in aquatic chemical certification, this is a donation that could be used right away.
- (b) Joe Schettler made a motion to accept the donation of a boat and trailer. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

ii) Discussion Items

(1) Screen / Projector Packet Pricing for My County Parks

- (a) Director Hall would like to let renters use the projector and screen this rental year if they ask. There have been a few quirks that need to be worked out before we can charge for the use of the equipment.

(2) Iowa Invasive Species Conference

- (a) Conservation Tech. Stonebrook shared that three staff members attended the Iowa Invasive Species Conference. They discussed roadside vegetation management with the Engineer's office.

(3) Prescribed fire with Norther Warren Fire Department

- (a) Park Superintendent Seuferer had the NWFDF Fire Chief reach out asking for support with a big burn their station has planned for March 21st.

(4) Gobbler's Knob

- (a) Park Superintendent Seuferer showed video footage of the before and after tree work done at Gobbler's Knob.

(5) Training Events: Loess Hills and CCDA

- (a) Maintenance staff will be headed to a prescribed fire training in the Loess Hills for three days of hands on training in late April.
- (b) Director Hall will be leading the County Conservation Director's Association meeting for the rest of the week and will be out of the office.

(6) Upcoming Events

- (a) Staff shared the upcoming events.
 - (i) Office Manager Wells shared the Google analytics for the day camp registrations. The Board would like to see more data like this.

iii) Financial Report

(1) Warren County Philanthropic Grant

- (a) Park Superintendent Seuferer has been working on completing a grant to purchase more fire equipment. His total project cost is \$7,100.00 after securing a \$1,000.00 private donation and a \$1,000.00 donation from Friends of Warren County Conservation.
- (b) My County Parks
 - (i) Office Manager Wells shared the income from My County Parks for the month of February. She is excited to see March's deposit with the day camp registrations.

(2) Year to Date

- (a) Director Hall presented the year-to-date budget.
- (b) Joe Schettler made a motion to accept the financial reports. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(3) Approval of Bills

- (a) Angie Croll made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

iv) Staff Reports

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

v) Adjournment

- (1) Angie Croll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7 pm. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.