Minutes of the
Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. 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:

Mark Kickbush, President
Joe Schettler, Vice President
Jake Sickels
Ryan Williams
Comprising a quorum of the board.

Absent:

Angie Croll

Staff present:

Zach Hall, Director
Kelsey Longnecker, EE Coord.
Tyler Seuferer, Park Super.
Kevin Brown, Conservation Tech
Mankato Stonebrook, Conservation Tech.
Jon Livermore, Conservation Ecologist
Mallory Wells, Office Manager
Monty Freeman, FWCC Treasurer

Guests:

None

Convene

a) **Call to order**
b) **Agenda Review**
   i) Joe Schettler made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Ryan Williams seconded. All aye. Motion carried
c) **Review the Minutes**
   i) Joe Schettler made the motion to approve the regular May 2026 minutes as presented. Ryan Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
d) **Public Comment**
   i) None
e) **Friends of Warren County Conservation (FWCC)**
   i) Director Hall shared that FWCC has a successful plant sale bringing in just under $5,000.00. Treasurer Freeman shared they sold a lot of native grasses. FWCC did a pop-up sale on Friday and Saturday June 5th and 6th and will be hosting another one in Norwalk on June 20th.
f) **Business Agenda**
   i) **New Business –**
      (1) **Payroll Removal** - Ryan Williams made a motion to remove Linus Larson from payroll effective June 5, 2026. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
      (2) **SRT Resolution**– Joe Schettler made a motion apply for the 2026 State Recreation Trails Grant and commit $120,000.00 from the Warren County Conservation Reserve Fund, recognizing that our project has $1,000,000 of matching funds for the next GWT project. Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(3) Resolution to partner with the City of Cumming– Jake Sickels made a motion to submit a joint Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA) application with the city of Cumming, with the city serving as the lead applicant, WCCB will not commit funds or project administrative service, and authorizes the WCCB Director to execute partnership documents, letters of support, and other documents necessary to help facilitate the submission of the grant on behalf of the WCCB, Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried

ii) Discussion Items

(1) GWT Phase 2

(a) Director Hall updated the board on the status of phase 2 on the Great Western Trail. The crews have all the road crossing paved, the shoulders in Martensdale pulled back up to the trails. The invoice for this work has been submitted for payment, but expenses are not completed in June.

(2) Playscape Planning

(a) Environmental Education Coordinator Longnecker shared the updates on the Playscape. She checked into grant possibilities and developed a draft funding timeline. Depending on the grants, they may require up to 65 percent matching funds. She is looking to start applying in the Spring of 2028, allowing for a year to fundraise for matching funds. Her goal is to have 1.3 million raised by the time they start applying for grants.

(3) Railing Vandalism

(a) Park Superintendent Seuferer shared with the board vandalism along the Great Western Trail. Staff discovered a bridge that had the top railing removed. Staff have been working with the WC Sheriffs office and will be filing

(4) Fall Conference

(a) Director Hall shared that staff will not be required to attend the fall conference, but it will be open to everyone to register if they choose.

iii) Upcoming Events

(a) EE Coordinator Longnecker shared the upcoming events they have planned.

(b) Director Hall shared a positive letter from the Principal of the Carlisle Middle School. He was impressed with education staff while assisting with School of the Wild.

iv) Financial Report

(i) Jake Sickels made a motion to approve the financial report. Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(2) Year to Date

(a) Jake Sickels made a motion to accept the financial reports. Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(3) Approval of Bills

(a) Sickels asked about the claim to be paid to the Warren County Assessor's office. Director Hall shared this is to purchase our license to access the programs staff need on the GIS system.

(b) Jake Sickels made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

v) Staff Reports

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

vi) Adjournment

(1) Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and move into closed session at 6:48 pm. Ryan Williams seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.