Minutes of the
Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2026. The meeting was held in person at the Annett 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
Jake Sickels

Absent:

Ryan Williams, Member

Comprising a quorum of the board.

Staff present:

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

Guests:

None

Convene

a) **Call to order**
b) **Agenda Review**
c) **Review the Minutes**
   i) Joe Schettler made the motion to approve the regular July 2026 minutes as presented. Angie Croll seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
d) **Public Comment**
   i) None
e) **Friends of Warren County Conservation (FWCC)**
   i) The FWCC is gearing up for their prairie picnic to be held September 19th. Ace Hardware donated a Blackstone griddle for early ticket sales. Monty visited with a couple at the Warren County Fair, and they sent a check for $1000.00 for the playscape.
f) **Business Agenda**
   i) **New Business –**
      (1) **Files for the SRT Grant 2025**
         (a) **Resolution: Project Acceptance Form**
            (i) Angie Croll moved to accept the resolution outlining the SRT 2025 Project Acceptance form by the DoT. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
         (b) **Change Order 01**

(i) Joe Schettler made a motion to accept the SRT 2025 Change Order 01 resolution. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(c) **Resolution: Targeted Small Business Form**

(i) Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the SRT grant TSB form resolution as presented. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried

(2) Removal from Payroll

(a) Brady Meyers effective July 29, 2026

(b) Sawyer Chapman effective August 19, 2026

(i) Joe Schettler made a motion to remove Brady Meyer effective July 29, 2026, and Swayer Chapman, effective August 19, 2026. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes, Motion carried.

(3) Resolution to Partner with FWCC for Playscape

(a) Joe Schettler made a motion to partner with FWCC and develop an MOU with them for the nature center playscape. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(4) Camping and Firewood Donation Requests: FWCC

(a) Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the donation of two free nights camping at Grant Natureland and two bundles of firewood for the FWCC Prairie Picnic. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

ii) Discussion Items

(1) Chicago NW Railroad Historical Phone Booth.

(a) Director Hall had a resident reach out to see if WCCB would like to have an old railroad phone booth donated back to WCCB to place along the Great Western Trail. The Board discussed the phone booth and would like Director Hall and its staff to decide what works best for management.

(2) WHS Funded properties management strategy change

(a) WCCB staff discussed decreasing the mowing frequency at Habitat Areas purchased with Wildlife Habit Stamp grant. WCCB expressed concern this doesn't align with our Mission and advised to continue mowing burn breaks to ensure citizens have regular access.

(3) WCCB Trail Connection Fees

(a) Director Hall updated the board on the trail connection fee to allow the board to discuss connecting to the trail. The board would like to gather more information and possibly increase the rate.

(4) Playscape Planning

(a) Environmental Education Coordinator Longnecker has been in contact with Bolton & Menk to put together a "fly through" 3D video of the nature playscape. She was quoted at $12,000.00. The board likes the idea, but they think they could get it done for a lower cost. She applied for a desktop archaeological survey, which was approved. WCCB suggested if we could get a video for $5,000 or less for a marketing video on the playscape then we need to pursue this option.

(b) On Oct 3rd they are going to host a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser and have a site tour to show people where the playscape will be going.

(c) EE Longnecker will be hosting the Travel Iowa Booth at the Iowa State Fair to make contacts.

(5) Conservation Projects

(a) Ecologist Livermore and Maintenance Tech Schwenke have been working to clear Rolling Thunder State Preserve and Gobblers Knob of brambles. Jon met with the State Forester to see if they can shift their upcoming project to an area close by to allow for more native prairie plants to be re-established.

(6) ANC Exhibit Hall Expense Planning

(a) We still have $6,400.00 left in our ARPA funds that need to be spent by December for the Nature Center. Park Superintendent Seuferer has been working to get multiple quotes from contractors to replace the windows.

iii) Financial Report

(1) Year to Date

(a) Director Hall shared the year to date and reported the REAP funds made $21,000.00 in interest last year.

(b) Joe Schettler made a motion to accept the financial reports presented by Director Hall. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Bills

(a) Joe Schettler 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

(a) Joe Schettler made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:40 pm. Jake Sickels seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion Carried.