

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
APRIL 21, 2016

- I. 6:58 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Ron Johnson.
- Board members in attendance: Ron Johnson, Richard Wallin, Susan Cushing, Al Szepe, Dave Maxwell, Paul Hayes, A.J. Mann, Tracy Littlejohn; absent: Bill Quackenbush, Brandon Hysel. Staff present: Marcy West, Jason Leis, Sadie Urban, Fran Campbell.
 - Szepe/Wallin motion to approve agenda; motion carried.
 - Szepe/Maxwell motion to approve March 17, 2016 minutes; motion carried.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: West – Yes, it’s been posted in compliance with State law.
- II. Budget Report: West – Reports sent to us by State. Explains columns and contents [reports displayed on screen]. Meeting with budget staff in Madison and will tailor reports to the Reserve. Deadline April 30, for encumbrances.
- III. KB1 – Consider Public Hearing Comments and/or Recommend Submittal to Legislature: West – Didn’t have anybody comment during the public hearing held at 6 PM, prior to this meeting. Local papers posted changes. Comments on screen from Legislative Council. Work through comments before we submit it. First portion regarding firearms: Act 35 legislation in 2011 created the concealed carry law. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) won’t have theirs resolved anytime soon. We can either wait for DNR language or if we have specific language to the Reserve. Legislative Council says be consistent with current law. Wallin: Proposed under KB1.08a leave paragraph 1 as is; paragraph 2 strike out all; paragraph 3 becomes paragraph 2; new paragraph 3, do not allow target shooting on property. Leis: Specifically, firearms, because have bow shooting out here. Discussion: whether to mention archery shooting, order of paragraphs, shell casing issue. If West gives lawyers intent of the Board, they will help with the wording. Littlejohn: Put reminder on hunting site about picking up shells. Next comment – inconsistency with 6 or 10 at campsite—define by number or by posted limit. Discussion on groups and occupancy limits. West: Expand posting then literature on line or at site. Wallin: Maybe give property manager authority to exceed limit with special permit. Wallin thinks it needs to be in writing. Discussion on providing porta-potties at Willow Camp. West says put that on Land Management agenda. Make wording consistent—leave Board off for approving permits. Will bring it back after response from the attorney.
- IV. Education & Tourism Committee Update: Szepe, Chair—Met April 7. Jonel Kiesau was there. Committee gave ‘thank you’ to Sadie Urban for all work in interim and welcome to Kiesau. Urban: Giving update - \$8,900.00, July 1, next Nuzum grant approved. Another forestry proposal also approved we are part of. Kiesau reviewed school dates – four dates not filled but later than usual. Five summer camps full with waiting lists. Summarized events – Creative Communities wrapped up end of March; keeps growing. Displayed 320 canvases; raising \$1,500.00. May 21, Tromp & Chomp; registration higher than 2015. Changed route due to logging. Spring/summer brochure came out. Erich Zuern, Xibitz contacted regarding upgrade of exhibits. Earth Day activities—hosting ‘Green Fire’ screening tomorrow night at 6 PM; Spring Fling May 7; June 16, Education and Tourism meeting. Kiesau did hire four new instructors. Urban thanks Szepe for serving as committee chair; Szepe is continuing as committee member.
- V. Project Information:
- Timber Harvest – Draft agreement with Wayne Wallace for completion of harvest contract. Administratively, process has gone well. Working on getting forester’s recommendation now. Lot

of older trees left for re-seeding. Call into Conservation Corps to clean up brush piles and invasives cleanup. Have outlined three year plan.

- Weister Creek Restoration – Hayes: [handout] Currently working on phase 2; had planned on being completed by July 1. Federal funding has fallen through for remainder of project. Funds held by Land & Water Conservation Department, Vernon County. Have agreement with DNR on phase 2—need \$20,000.00 on deposit before going ahead; have \$32,000.00 on hand. Don't know on DNR Trout Stamp money. DNR Fisheries interested in going ahead with phase 3; will be able to answer after close of current fiscal year. Close to having match for phase 3; maybe by winter. Question from Bill Greendeer on environmental impact on animals during project, habitat considerations, and monitoring, best management practices. Hayes response that all have been addressed.
- Butterfly Habitat Efforts – Collecting and planting milkweed seeds, mowing; contacted Department of Transportation—Iowa has habitat efforts on their roads and railroad sides. This may be good place for habitat efforts, between prairies and habitat restoration going on and other things. Discussion: Greendeer and Juliee de la Terre add comments on cause for decline, genetically modified organisms (GMO). Littlejohn: Request for education on pollinators and research on it and be more pro-active.
- Bridge 13 & Old 131 Trail Work Postponed – West: Bridge 13 project only got one bid; not getting done this year. Met with Engineers and Roads Division staff for Ho-Chunk Nation; put everything together and bid it all at once. Our responsibility from Highway P north to bridge 13 and Trust land boundary to Landing 12 for blacktopping. Work to be done in 2017, bid out in 2016.
- Spring Work List – Leis: Hope to get some prescribed burns done; fixing some washouts; on Old 131, spraying garlic mustard coming up. No crew on hand to do much in good weather we have had; will be discussion for Land Management. West: On river log jams are to the north of us; Ho-Chunk Nation in cooperation with Vernon County Highway Department took out worst one at bridge 14 from December high water. Discussion from Greendeer and de la Terre on garlic mustard issue and means of removal.

VI. Other Issues:

- Audience – no issues.
- Agency Liaisons – no issues.
- Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve – Urban: 'Green Fire' April 22, screening; Spring Fling, May 7. First time exceeded 200 Friends members.
- Board and Staff:
 - West – Ben Johnston recognized for outstanding Department of Natural Resources citizen-based monitoring.
 - West – April start annual evaluation process for Executive Director. Johnson: Contact executive committee—Wallin, Cushing, Johnson to have something to approve next month.
 - Johnson – Szepi's last meeting; thanks for service and dedication. [Plaque of recognition presented to Szepi.]
- Call for suggestions of future agenda items:
 - Greendeer – Give information on role of beavers on landscape.

VII. Next meeting, May 19, 2016. Littlejohn/Wallin motion to adjourn; motion carries. Meeting adjourns, 8:50 PM.

Recorded by:

Frances M. Campbell