

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
November 16, 2023

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Travis Downing.
- Board members in attendance: Joel Charles, Travis Downing, Julie Hoel, AJ Mann, Reggie Nelson, Barb Sarnowski, Luke Zahm; Via Zoom: Bill Quackenbush. Absent: Scott Lind, Dave Maxwell. Staff in-person: Jason Leis, Jackie Yocum; Via Zoom: Erica Cronk, Maggie Schultz. Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcopo News; Margaret Farley, Friends of KVR Board member; Via Zoom: Marcia Bader, Jen Oium, Tim Keneipp
 - Motion by Hoel/Charles to approve the agenda. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
 - Land Acknowledgement Statement: Hoel.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Zahm. Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input. None.
- II. Charles/Zahm motion to approve the October 26, 2023 minutes. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
- III. Friends of KVR Update. Yocum: planning Holiday Happening – December 2nd from noon to 5pm - food, cookie walk, live entertainment. Friends beginning to plan for Winter Festival concessions. Next meeting Tuesday, November 21, 2023.
- IV. Decision Items.
- Moving KRMB meeting start time to 5:30pm. Downing: request by Maxwell to move start time of KRMB meeting. Charles: earliest can start is 6pm. Discussion. Agreed on 6pm start time. Sarnowski/Charles motion to move start time to 6pm. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
 - Beekeeper request (recommendation from LM committee). [Review contract on screen]. Request to place bees on the KVR. Beekeeper – Tim Keneipp - needs to know by January 2024. Less risk to native bee populations if bees kept on property over winter. All materials removed from site no later than November 1, 2024. Keneipp will provide education talks or workshops throughout the lease in lieu of payment. Leis: this is on a trial basis – in the future if it goes okay this year will open it up to others – would bid it out similar to ag lease. Zahm/Charles motion to allow Keneipp to bring his hives on the Reserve. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
- V. Education & Tourism Committee Report.
- Winter Festival update: Yocum: starting to contact people for event – have a lot of things already set up. Will be reaching out to sponsors after Thanksgiving. Event will be at Visitor Center only. Will have plan for snow and a plan for no snow. Big fundraiser for the Friends via concessions. Buckle raffle being planned. Event Saturday, January 13, 2024. Quackenbush: gifts for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place snow snake – something more substantial than last year.
- VI. Land Management Update. Committee met November 7, 2023. Downing: Russell Groves spoke via zoom about bees. 24 students from Westby Green Club on KVR collecting seeds – collected 30+ pounds. Reforesting six acres by Hanson Rock – planting 90 trees. Planted six trees along Old Hwy 131 on Wednesday. Using campsite data to make better land management decisions. Plan to groom Old Hwy 131 trail and trail around Dam Tower for skiing with new groomer. Still releasing pheasants. Campsites getting used heavily. Hoel: is there list of who has donated trees. Yocum: yes, it will go in newsletter and people that sponsored trees will receive email notified where they are planted. Hoel: can we add to website. Yocum: yes, we can put it wherever we want it to be. Next meeting January 9, 2024 at 5:30pm.
- VII. Finance Committee Update. Committee met November 13, 2023.
- Bridge 6 land transfer complete (about 16 acres) and held in trust in Mississippi Valley Conservancy. Adds to a contiguous protected corridor including Wildcat Mountain State Park and KVR. Zahm: Finance Committee agreed to cover the grant costs to complete transfer.

- Tracks for the UTV are being purchased to facilitate the new groomer for x-country ski trails. Allocated amount below what was authorized to be spent by Executive Director.
- Heater for Maintenance Bay being purchased and installed. Keep bay warm during the winter. Leis: need to get bids first. Next meeting December 11, 2023 at 9am.

VIII. Enforcement Update.

- Campsite Update and issues surrounding upcoming gun deer season on the KVR. Have had officers patrolling – some cleanliness of campsites issues. Deer dumpster in place now by Rockton Bridge. CWD kiosk adjacent to dumpster. Sending out emails to campers about what our rules are – keeping site clean – no target practice – rules geared more towards hunters.

IX. Other issues.

- Board member matters or requests for future agenda topics.

X. Hoel/Downing Motion to convene in closed session for the following purposes:

1) Pursuant to s. 19.185(1)(c) of Wisconsin State Statutes: *Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.* Purpose: for discussion of personnel and employment issues.

Meeting adjourned into closed session 7:30 PM.

XI. Next KRMB meeting December 21, 2023.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk