

AMENDED MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
OCTOBER 22, 2015

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Ron Johnson.

- I. Board members in attendance: Ron Johnson, Richard Wallin, Susan Cushing, Bill Quackenbush, Dave Maxwell, Paul Hayes, A.J. Mann, Tracy Littlejohn; absent: Al Szepi, Brandon Hysel. Staff present: Jason Leis, Sadie Urban, Fran Campbell; absent: Marcy West.
 - Cushing/Wallin motion to approve agenda; motion carried.
 - Maxwell/Cushing motion to approve September 17, 2015 minutes; motion carried.
 - Campbell – Meeting agenda has been posted in compliance with State law.

- II. Budget Report – Summer Revenue Snapshot – Campbell: [spreadsheet handout] Overview/summary of main revenue-gathering time frame – May through September – of each year since the Reserve began collecting use fees. Graph on reverse shows steady increase in total fees collected, with noticeable ‘declines’ due to flood years. Two extraordinary monthly collection variations noted – due to Organic Valley purchasing annual permits for employees.

- III. Committee Updates:
 - Land Management – Wallin, Chair: Met October 13.
 - Request to change designation of several trails to multi-use forwarded from Trails September subcommittee meeting. Recommending east trails as multi-use—Mule, Ma & Pas, Hoot Owl, Big Valley, Cut-off. Establish hiking only trail along Weister Creek improvement area, only mowed, only used as fire break. Do re-route of West Ridge Trail—also be multi-use trail based to recommend to Board. Re-examine designation change after two-year trial period. If problems, could change them back. Look into designating Kickapoo River as official water trail. Examine it enough to know if there is any advantage like grants or benefits. Could look into partnering with other groups or agencies if go ahead. Federal designation—federal grant money might be available.
 - Weister Creek project updates – Hayes: Five phases to the project; phase I completed and paid for--\$42,000.00 Trout Stamp, \$20,000.00 in-kind in rock and work. Phase II under way with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Vernon County. Bank clearing; crew put in rock and gravel in entranceway; cleared 2,500 feet so far. Matching funds in bank handled by Paul Krahn, Vernon County Land & Water; \$1,000.00 surplus for unanticipated costs. MRBI (Mississippi River Basin Initiative) proposal [handout] – watershed and priority watershed—Weister Creek, Plum Run and entire length of Kickapoo River within Reserve, West Fork, Trout Creek, Goose Creek, Tainter Creek – around \$800,000.00 for first year and about \$1.6 million for next two years. Jeff Hastings very instrumental in getting it approved. Stabilize banks with riprap and cover over; doesn’t cover habitat. DNR would come through and do all habitat work independently. Ideally, DNR would do all and run funding through them. Three year window. Work there with Weister project—another three years. Main stem of Kickapoo eligible. Funding goes through private entity.
 - Wallin: Old 131 paving – Bridge 15 to P, seal coat on south end, small parking lot, and area around maintenance building completed.
 - Enforcement update – Leis: Looking at upgrading radios – portable that will go to and receive from vehicle. Probably still retain old portables for use 100 yards from vehicle.
 - Wallin/Cushing motion designate Mule, Ma & Pas, Hoot Owl, Big Valley, Cut-off Trails multi-use beginning next season with new visitor guide maps and go for two-year period and

re-visit them and make them permanent or not. Quackenbush: Years ago talked about keeping up with what we had. Are we at that point where we can maintain them? Wallin: Pretty much all sustaining now with re-route and re-work. West Ridge Trail last on list to re-do. Motion carries. Wallin/Hayes motion establish mow-only hiking trails along Weister Creek stream improvement area serve as both hiking trails along stream and fire breaks for controlled burns and control weeds and brush; and as project extends downstream, trails would extend. Discussion: Concerned about foot print, over-population, impact on creek restoration; reason for burning is keeping willows and other woods under control; trails invite people to go fishing—don't think it will be a primary destination; no creel checks on Weister. Two abstentions; motion carries.

- Wallin: River valley-wide group official water trail designation – discussion: benefits unknown; asking West to do preliminary investigation to determine if worthwhile to pursue, and then decide whether we should pursue it or not. Littlejohn and Quackenbush: Thinks there is benefit to doing it on federal level. Motion carries.
- Wallin/Hysel motion work on re-route of West Ridge trail that would establish that to multi-use standards. Motion carries.
- Education and Tourism – Urban:
 - Two handouts – summary of summer and fall school groups; events – two-day workshops hard to fill—time commitment; star gazing workshops picking up. Upcoming events – photo event deadline October 23, paint with Friends, Children's Immersion.
 - Dam Challenge debrief – registrations down, 17% no shows. Finances – sponsors up; changed registration platform this year, fees lower; expenses down--2015 best year except for cancelled 2013. Quackenbush: Ragnar races?—run from one city to another with a team relay. [Urban will check out website.] Fundraising – in August, met talked about ideas for education. Any organizations offer funding to organizations putting on programs for homeschooling groups – Kiesau looking into it.
 - Exhibit renovation – Johnson: Looking for ideas and what to keep. Make movable and changeable exhibits—enable turning exhibit area into event area. Julie Hoel, KVR Friends: John Heasley to add stargazing component – add to story fire area with night sky. Museum grant would require match from Friends. Hoel asks what priority is on updating exhibit. Board members behind it; just getting started on it recently. Reinsma asks to be included on tech. Do it all at once or piece at a time. Littlejohn/Cushing motion we will go in there and look at exhibit. Hayes: How to insure it stays on Board's agenda. Visit exhibits next meeting. Motion carries. Reinsma mentions possible contact – Schmeekle Consulting Group

- IV. Establish Fees for 2016 – Johnson: Two different recommendations from committees; tonight have good discussion, get one policy. Have to have it done by end of December; not make final vote until next meeting, November or December. Wallin: Land Management decided bottom line people objecting to way things happen at Willow Camp; can get up to 40 people and multiple rigs, campers, etc. Some of them get together on big weekends and pay one registration for everyone. Thinking about flat per group fee then \$2.00 per person beyond four. Doesn't want patrol people to have to count noses - people on trails, people in campers. Decided look at pay \$15.00 per camping rig and define camping unit—just at Willow Camp where problem. No abuses at other sites and most of time no abuses at Willow—primarily holiday weekends. Don't have issues at Mule like Willow. Maxwell: Education and Tourism camping fees - \$10.00; \$10.00 for two then \$2.00 per person. Could be \$34.00 for 10 people; \$10.00 for basic campsite – hike-in campsites. Leis: Enforcement nightmare; hike-in sites more difficult to check on. Johnson: Hears not changing basic fees. Not getting to one recommendation. Littlejohn request to change definition of family unit. Cushing: Keep it uncomplicated. Hayes/Wallin motion table to next meeting. Motion carries.

V. Other Issues:

- Audience – no issues.
- Agencies:
 - Reinsma – September 22, Tourism Deputy Secretary Sarah Klavas toured the KVR, Old 131, and Visitor Center. Brought camera crew for video shoot down County P East and West—people having fun in fall color. Facebook record – 6.2 million sessions on travelwisconsin.com. Wisconsin 2015 state fair named fair of the year. Gloves/mittens drop-off to donate to local charity of choice.
- Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve – Julie Hoel, president: Dam Challenge lot of volunteer hours. Appreciation dinner 81 people signed up for October 24—live music and campfire. At pasta supper 136 served. Next event, Holiday Happening [December 5].
- Board and Staff:
 - MOU Follow-up – Johnson: Every five years have to go over. Not expecting to do anything with tonight; just introduce it to the new Board members. Say we feel it's fine, send it on to the Ho-Chunk Nation.
 - Employee Compensation Plan Approval – Johnson: Plan not completed – has to be in by October 30. Options for completing: whole Board hold another meeting or make motion to give power to Executive officers and West to complete and approve. Littlejohn/Hysel motion to give Executive officers and West power to complete and approve. Motion carried.
- Call for suggestions of future agenda items – view exhibits and fees.

VI. Next meeting, November 19, 2015. Hysel/Quackenbush motion to adjourn; motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:50 PM.

Recorded by:

Frances M. Campbell