

Executive Summary

2010-2015 Management Plans

Perhaps the best indication that the Kickapoo Valley Reserve continues to operate successfully is found via review of the Management Plans. This opening quote from the 2005 Plan holds equal value in 2010.

“Both natural and political events led to the evolution of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (Reserve). Nature has shaped the majesty of the Reserve, and a series of political actions created the 8,569-acre expanse of public land. Controversy has been associated with the scenic tract since flood control discussions were first initiated in the 1930s. After much heartache, the new century finds the Reserve project aligned with the hopes of the future—the balance between protection of the resource and its use. The prevailing sentiment throughout federal, state, Ho-Chunk Nation, and Kickapoo Reserve Management Board (KRMB) legislation and actions is to conserve, improve, and protect the Reserve for future generations: conserve the land and its vast resources; maintain or help improve the quality of life in the local communities; and protect the natural, historic, and cultural resources.” (Excerpt 2005 Summary)

The process to establish the Goals and Objectives for 2010 through 2015 is written to guide the KRMB members, Reserve staff, and fellow agency professionals. Equally important is that the document is intended for the general public as well, and that the policies and administration governing the property are open to public review, comment, and overall understanding. In that regard, this – the third version of the plans – has been significantly scaled back. The initial writings for the 2000-2005 and 2005-2010 Master Plan are archived in the Visitor Center library and available electronically. During this review, the decision was made to narrow the focus of the plans and therefore minimize the historical reviews and more detailed inventories. Likewise, the number of attachments has been reduced. It is intended to make it a more user-friendly and applicable document. Earlier versions will not be lost or disregarded but serve as part of the unique evolving story of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

In brief, the 2005-2010 review is one of significant progress and growth in terms of visitors, events, and the education program. It will also be remembered as the phase of frequent floods with the 2007, 2008, and 2010 flood events which caused setbacks in completing some of the overall land management objectives. As often quoted, “it could have been worse” as the entire valley is to be commended that there were no serious injuries or loss of life and – specific to the Reserve – the staff worked diligently to get beyond the setbacks and in some cases improve the property following the flood events.

Looking to the future, we again are impressed that the 1999 *Conclusion Statement* fits equally well in the 2010 Summary:

“Management actions detailed in the following plans address the viability of natural resources and sustainable development, meeting present needs without compromising the capability of future generations to meet their needs. All Kickapoo Reserve

Management Board operations will be conducted in a manner that preserves the character of the environment and complies with the state statutory authority that governs the property. Citizen participation that has served so well to date will continue through the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board, standing committees, and volunteer opportunities." (Excerpt 1999 Master Plan)