

AMENDED MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
June 15, 2023

- 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Scott Lind.
 - Board members in attendance: Tina Brown, Travis Downing, Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, Dave Maxwell, Reggie Nelson, Barb Sarnowski, Luke Zahm. Via Zoom: AJ Mann, Bill Quackenbush. Staff in-person: Lynn Kronschnabel, Jason Leis, Maggie Manke, Jackie Yocum. Via Zoom: Erica Cronk, Blake Cwynar. Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcope News; Beth Unger, Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve (FKVR) board member and 20+ members of public. Via Zoom: 5+ members of public.
 - Motion by Hoel/Sarnowski to approve the agenda. Unanimous. Motion carries.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Kronschnabel -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input: Kindred WazeeGale: in support of KVFS and original vision of Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) educational programs – does not support KVR getting a caged animal in name of environmental education – wild beings should stay wild. Meaghan Gustafson: appreciate collaboration especially with Lind and Kronschnabel. On behalf of La Farge School District (LFSD) committed to coming together around our children and collective futures as organizations with overlapping interests – look forward to continuing conversation. Sarah Hubbard: local citizen – son attends KVFS – family farm taken for failed Dam project – LFSD never recovered. KVFS made LFSD magnet for recruitment. Citizens of La Farge want to continue to have a school in their town. Eric Hartwig: speaking on behalf of himself and Organic Valley – spent 15 years working with youth – understands how challenging this issue is – so important for our rural community to thrive - need to keep building amenities and resources – wants what is best for KVFS and KVR – willing to assist to find collaborative path forward. AJ Morgan – speaking in support of KVFS – thank KVR staff, KRMB, and LFSD for this unique and exceptional partnership. Jonel Kiesau: speaking on behalf of KVFS leadership team. Kiesau developed KVR education program starting in 2001 working closely with community members, teachers, historians, Ho-Chuck Nation members, artists, and scientists. KVFS is built off this collaboration and long relationship with the land. Connecting children and families ensuring legacy for future generations. Raising the next generation of land stewards. KVFS partners in preserving and protecting this land and lend hearts and minds to mission of KVR. Ashley Lewison - KVFS parent – creating generation of future KRMB members.
 - Lind: Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- II. Brown/Zahm motion to approve the May 18, 2023 minutes. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- III. Friends of KVR Update. Unger: this past Friday Friends hosted Volunteer Appreciation Event – about 35 attendees – very nice event. Upcoming Garden Walk Saturday, July 15th from 3-7pm in Viroqua – several lovely garden - \$15 per ticket. In support of KRMB supporting the KVFS.
- IV. Informational Items.
- Facilities update: Energy Assessment, Vernon County Energy District (VCED). Kronschnabel: Non-profit energy district in Vernon County. Vision is 100% locally owned and produced renewable energy. Alan Buss, President of VCED came last week, completed energy assessment, and reviewed current electrical bills. Looked at lighting, heating, geo-thermal system. Talked about the goals of KVR and possibly of becoming a resiliency center. Buss took photos of heat pumps – knows engineer that has worked with solar and geo-thermal. Funds available through Inflation Reduction Act. Buss has suggestions on electrical vehicle charging stations. Also, outdoor restrooms and exterior doors were recently painted.
 - Hansen Rock Oak Planting project. [review map on screen]. Kronschnabel: one of ten spots that was determined would be a great space – 6-acre field – land locked area – off Plum Run Road – was not planted nor rented out this year. Met with Branon Bluer and KVR field staff to get best idea what to plant – recommendation primarily white oak (75%) and red oak (25%) with some burr oak – fewer trees but larger in size better success rate – minimum 5 feet tall. Approximately 90 trees 30 yards apart. Received quote from local nursery, New Era Nursery [review on screen]. Cost ranges from \$8,446-\$19,592 depending on size of trees. Would like to start planting this fall – multiple stages.

- Milkweed planting project. [review map on screen]. Yocum: applied for and received grant – received 350 milkweed plants free of charge – combination of swamp and common milkweed – grown in Wisconsin. Many went along Old Hwy 131 Trail – some at Ma & Pas trail. Plants are doing well – others not so good but to be expected. Field crew dedicated to keeping them watered. Monarch enclosure at visitor center. Protecting monarchs that may otherwise be mowed while doing best to protect those in their natural habitat.
- Update on storage unit. Leis: purchased two shipping containers – 40 feet long, 8 foot wide. To be placed behind maintenance building out of site. Total for two with delivery and set up was \$10,580.00.
- National Recreation Trail Designation. Yocum: Old Hwy 131 Trail officially designated by Secretary Department of Interior National Park Service as national recreation trail on June 3, 2023. Application process took approximately one year to complete – 1 of 9 trails in nation designated this year. We will get official signage that will go out on property – small and well-done signs. Trail now in the national database for national trails. Public thanks to those that wrote letter of support.
- Dark Sky application update. Lind: in final phase of application – being routed for signatures to all three entities – KVR – Wildcat – Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC). Still educational work to complete.
- Facilities agreement with KVFS update. Lind: Kronschnabel, Gustafson and Lind met to discuss updating agreement. Hopefully present revised version at next month's meeting. Will send it out ahead of time for review.
- Invasive update: Japanese Knotweed, Wild Parsnip, Garlic Mustard. Leis: crew focusing on invasives – making a priority this year. Discovered large patch of knotweed further up hill – crew worked on all day yesterday – formulating a plan what to do with it in future – burn. Wild Parsnip – all along roadsides – soon will be able to mow off - along trails – trying to spray the smaller plants and cut the roots of larger plants. Garlic mustard – taken many pounds off property this year – has now gone to seed – trying to contain rather than eradicate.
- Jacob Hansel research update. Leis: was previously discussed at Land Management Committee. Research student wanting to study root fungi – mainly hemlocks next to river. Extensive research encompassing KVR, Wildcat, MVC, and private land. Getting close to giving him the okay to proceed.

V. Action Agenda (Decision Items)

- KVFS location limitations, permission for feasibility study of Corps Rd sites to be done by KVFS/LFSD and formation of ad hoc joint committee to recommend next steps. Lind: this has been ongoing discussion. Lind/Downing motion in four parts - First: That no additional infrastructure for KVFS shall be installed at the current KVFS site with the exception of a temporary office/storage space - Second: That not later than the close of the school year in June, 2025 KVFS will vacate currently leased facilities unless a short-term extension is granted by KRMB - Third: That an ad hoc committee made up of KRMB-appointed and KVFS-appointed members shall begin meeting not later than August, 2023 for the purpose of making recommendations to both parties concerning the possible relocation of PS1 and PS2 and future leasing of land and/or facilities for the use of KVFS. The expected date for recommendations to both parties will be January 1, 2024 - Fourth: That KRMB will allow KVFS/LFSD to engage a consultant for a feasibility study of sites on the Reserve near Corps Road for a future KVFS location as an aid to the work of the committee. Discussion. Lind: thinks KVFS is appropriate to have at KVR but not at visitor center. Hoel: question wording of third part of motion – could you instead say concerning the location of PS 1 and PS 2. Lind/Zahm: that changes intention and scope of motion. Lind looking to create ad-hoc committee with KRMB and KVFS input. Nelson: wants to see the options at both sites – would like a feasibility study to show which location is best. Zahm: if all partners of KRMB and co-management plan strongly feel Corps Rd is the best option and keeping KVFS on property is best option it puts us back to the motion on the table. Hoel: what happens if it's not feasible to move both buildings – what is still to be determined – important to see what comes of meeting with Fleckenstein Foundation. Lind: if everyone agrees KVFS should be on Reserve but agree KVFS should not be sited at Visitor Center – we can make this work. Downing: this is the best path forward where everyone gets along – it's not working on this present site very well – not enough room for both entities to exist at visitor center. Hoel: should be looking at the easiest, cheapest, most efficient use of what we currently have. Brown: not in support of it being sited at visitor center – not what was intended in Memorandum of Understanding – whether school is here or not there still will be education here. Quackenbush: folks made good points about Reserve serving as educational opportunity for their kids – which is a great thing. Also, need perspective as Reserve as a whole

and what the original intent when met to consult to determine which land would be managed by State and which by the Nation – at a tribal level. The original intent was for the Reserve to be protected and preserved for everyone – over time transitioned and focusing majority of time on local communities and things at the State level and less on tribal perspective. The Nation spent a lot of time and effort on retaining at least 1,200 acres within Reserve. The early discussion was to create a visitor center to bring people in and educate but not bring a school in and become an educational center. So many other things the Reserve is here to do – taking away attention from other priorities that need dealt with and main purpose and goals. Not opposed to moving KVFS off visitor center grounds to another location if it is feasible. Maxwell: consensus from public and KRMB input - school should be sited on KVR – however no consensus where that school should be located. Curious what KVFS perspective is on this. Gustafson: important to parent body, governance council, and leadership team that KVFS stay on the Reserve – open to exploring other locations - need a clear direction to inform next steps. Unanimous. Motion carried.

- Land Management Recommendation – Willow Camp rules: Self-contained units only allowed at sites and can have 1 tent per site with a self-contained unit. Limit size of tent? [reviewed word doc on screen]. Downing: issue is people coming with one self-contained unit and bringing many tents. Suggest rewording rule that you can only have one tent with your self-contained unit. Lind: start with limiting to one tent and if issues continue limit size of tent. Downing/Zahm motion to only allow one tent per self-contained site. Unanimous. Motion carried.
- LM Recommendation – Plant larger trees on Hanson Rock site and tend them, vs a larger number of saplings. Leis: received recommendation and price on trees. Looking for recommendation from KRMB how to proceed. Lind: Finance Committee will discuss this at June 26th meeting. Brown/Hoel motion to table item until after finance committee meets on June 26th. Unanimous. Motion carried.
- LM Recommendation – Initiate pollinator plantings after proper research to determine where, type, and number of acres. Prioritize sites and do as funds allow. Lind: similar to trees, bring this item back to KRMB in July after Finance Committee meeting in June. Lind/Zahm motion to table item until after Finance Committee meets on June 26th. Unanimous. Motion carried.
- E&T Recommendation - Educational animal. [review presentation]. Manke: brought proposal to Education and Tourism committee at June meeting. KVR would need additional insurance coverage. Animal being considered is a Barred Owl – Manke has been working with an owl at rehab facility. Would take approximately a week to build the enclosure. Injured owl cannot be released – if KVR does not take it, it will find another home. If KRMB does not support moving forward currently – something to consider in the future. Several volunteers expressed interest in helping care for the animal. Hoel: does not want to rush this decision – in favor of tabling until further time. Manke: looking for input if KRMB would like to continue pursuing this, if not, Manke will focus on other projects. Lind: in favor if animal could be released, otherwise not in favor. Zahm: does not like animals in captivity – hesitant for KVR to have something like this. Hoel/Zahm motion to not pursue education animal. Unanimous. Motion carried.

- VI. Education & Tourism Committee Report. Manke: committee met June 8th. Lots of school groups in May – thanks to instructors and staff for stepping up and helping with busy season. Summer camps going well so far – had to cancel one camp due to low registration – two other camps with low registration – will try to combine those camps. Next meeting is August 7, 2023.
- VII. Land Management Update. None. Committee last met on May 16th – updated at May 18th KRMB meeting.
- VIII. Finance Committee Update. None. Committee last met on May 15th – updated at May 18th KRMB meeting.
- IX. Enforcement Update. Leis: quite busy last few weeks - campsites mostly full – the reservation system seems to be helping with that. Drowning on river a few weeks ago – deep holes along rock walls – reminder people need to be wearing life jackets. Everyone on a boat or tube needs to have a life vest – big change that is happening at each canoe business. Leis and Game Warden spent a weekend patrolling on the river at landings. Also, fight at Landing not on Reserve in addition to a roll-over accident. Overall, a lot is happening on the river. Working closely with the sheriff's department to make everything safer including canoe businesses. Leis/Malanka will be receiving body armor in mid-July.

- X. Other issues.
- Board member matters or requests for future agenda topics. Brown: as of June 30th, DNR appointment with Ho-Chunk Nation will be ending. Lind: let Scott know if would like to serve on KVFS/KVR ad-hoc committee or have recommendations.
- XI. Next KRMB meeting July 20th, 2023. Brown/Zahm motion to adjourn, motion carries. The meeting adjourned 8:53 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk