

**Kickapoo Reserve Management Board  
Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2024**  
Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

**Board members present:** Travis Downing (Chair), Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, Barb Sarnowski, Bill Quackenbush, Luke Zahm, Kjetil Garvin, Reggie Nelson, AJ Mann (via Zoom), Joel Charles (via Zoom), Dave Maxwell (via Zoom)

**Staff members present:** Jason Leis, Jackie Yocum, Amy Dvorak, Amber Burch

**Others in attendance:** Margaret Tingley Farley, Lonnie Muller (Episcope), Bill Collins

Chair Downing called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Leis introduced Amber Burch, who is the new Education Coordinator. All board members and Burch introduced themselves.

Quackenbush made a motion to approve the agenda. Lind seconded the motion, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Lind read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Leis confirmed the agenda was properly posted.

**Public input:** None.

**Consent agenda:**

The minutes from the October 24, 2024 meeting were provided. Sarnowski motioned to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Zahm, and the motion passed with all ayes.

**Friends of the KVR Update:**

Margaret Tingley Farley shared updates from the last Friends of the KVR meeting. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be celebrated all year with the rededication ceremony occurring on June 7, 2025. The Friends will assist with this event. The year-end appeal was mailed today. The Friends will reimburse the KVR approximately \$20,000 for various programs and permits.

In 2025, the Friends plan to participate in or plan the following events: Winter Festival, poetry contest and adopt-a-highway clean-up (part of Earth Week events), 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary rededication ceremony, volunteer appreciation picnic, 4<sup>th</sup> of July hospitality table, garden tour, KVR staff appreciation, photo contest, pasta supper (part of Dam Challenge), and Holiday Happening. There will also be a spring and fall newsletter along with the year-end appeal.

**Members of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee and meeting dates:**

Downing explained the Board needs to form a committee for the event. Hoel said she originally offered to be on the committee, but she cannot anymore since she won't be on the Board at the time of the event. Sarnowski said she was on the original committee.

Zahm asked for details. Yocum explained the KVR staff is looking for guidance on the June 7, 2025 event. She said the Board will be hosting the celebration, but staff will do the leg work. Board members will give approvals and may assist with making connections with vendors and participants. Zahm asked if there should be a specific committee or if the whole Board should be included. Leis suggested a committee. Downing offered to attend the planning meetings.

Quackenbush asked if there were any plans yet for the event. The plan is to recreate the original dedication ceremony with an addition of "now look at where we are." The Friends will be incorporated into the celebration. We will rededicate the property and confirm the mission still stands. The celebration will include the Ho-Chunk Nation and highlight the management of this place and that it still works. It will not be a huge event. Past board members will be invited.

Downing said he would be happy to attend the committee meeting(s). Yocum said the meetings may be virtual. She is looking for guidance from the Board to make sure we are on the right track. There will also be a small reception at the celebration.

Nelson and Quackenbush were at the first celebration in 2001. Lind asked what the first celebration involved. Quackenbush said it took a long time to plan because it was the first one. He said the Nation would be overjoyed to come back to the event. Quackenbush agreed with focusing on the progress that we made and are still making. He would be happy to be on the committee as would Zahm and Garvin. Downing will also assist as he can.

Quackenbush asked for staff to gather the list of the people who were in Madison at the signing of the MOU.

The date of the rededication was confirmed for June 7, 2025. Leis asked when the first planning committee meeting will be. There was a discussion on the best date. Early December or January would be best. Yocum will create a Save the Date to send out to people whose calendars will fill up quickly. She will send out a suggested meeting date to those interested in being on the committee.

**Discussion about gathering of Board, Staff, and Friends Board:**

Hoel would like to have a get-together for the holidays due to the amount of new staff and Board members. Downing asked if she wanted it before or after the December 2024 meeting. Hoel said she would like the Friends Board members to attend as well. Downing said it could be done every year at the December meeting. It was decided to do it after the meeting. The meeting should be pretty short. Hoel and Zahm said they would help with refreshments. Tingley Farley will invite the Friends Board members. The get-together will start around 7:00 PM. All staff will be invited as well.

**Tree planting report:**

Leis said the Friends purchased 40 white oak trees to plant on Hanson Rock. Since that time, our access to Hanson Rock is no longer available. The property changed hands, and the landowner doesn't want us back there with equipment to plant the trees. To take the trail with all the equipment and trees would be difficult.

There are two new proposed locations. A map was shown on the screen of the two sites. One spot will be by the Jug Creek Hiking Trail near the Jug Creek campsite. The lower site was a pine plantation that was logged off. Most all the trees left on the site were snapped off by high winds. Both areas were logged in the past. Hoel asked if work already started. Leis said we have the trees but haven't had the ability to plant them yet. We have mulch, trees, and fencing. Hopefully the ground doesn't freeze before we can plant the trees.

**Staffing update:**

Downing asked if there were staffing updates other than what we went through earlier. Leis said Burch is new and everything is going well. The position description has gone to HR for the property manager position. The job will be posted in mid-December with the hopes of getting someone hired the first part to middle of January.

**Land Trade update:**

Leis said we had some movement on the land trade with the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, which is the land north of Hay Valley Road. The Conservancy purchased it from a landowner and is donating it to the KVR. The paperwork has been at the Governor's office, and they are now asking questions, so there is some movement. It is not done yet, but it's on their radar now.

Leis hasn't heard anything on the Lisney Road trade. Both land trades have been taking multiple years to complete.

**Education and Tourism Committee:**

There was no meeting since the last Board meeting. The next Education and Tourism Committee meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

**Finance Committee:**

There was no meeting since the last Board meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2024, at 9:00 AM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

**Land Management Committee:**

There was no meeting since the last Board meeting. The next Land Management Committee meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

**Other issues:**

No other issues.

Quackenbush will not be at the December 19, 2024 meeting. He would like to revisit amendments to the Master Plan. Leis said it would be in 2025. Quackenbush would like to update the Cultural Resources Management Plan. Hoel asked if everyone will work on the Master Plan next year. Quackenbush said no. Hoel said when she worked on the last plan for Education and Tourism, there were a series of committees dedicated to updating the plan. Downing asked Quackenbush if he would like to discuss the Cultural Resources Management

Plan during the next Land Management Committee meeting. Quackenbush said that would be fine.


Leis said Mississippi Valley Archaeology is coming out tomorrow to survey the new site for Campsite V.

Hoel asked for the status of the signage for the land acknowledgment statement. She said it would be a sign for outside the Visitor Center. Leis said it wasn't on his radar, but it can be. Hoel thanked him.

**Adjournment:**

Lind made a motion and Nelson seconded to adjourn the meeting. It passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.



Minutes transcribed by Amy Dvorak, 11/27/2024