

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
April 20, 2023

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Scott Lind. Lind: Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- Board members in attendance: Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, AJ Mann, Dave Maxwell, Reggie Nelson, Barb Sarnowski, Dick Wallin, Luke Zahm. Via Zoom: Tina Brown. Absent: Travis Downing, Bill Quackenbush. Staff in-person: Erica Cronk, Blake Cwynar, Lynn Kronschnabel, Jason Leis, Christian Malanka, Maggie Manke, Jackie Yocum. Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcopo News; Marcia Bader, Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve (FKVR) Treasurer; Andrew Nussbaum, Wisconsin Department of Tourism.
 - Motion by Zahm/Maxwell to approve the agenda. Unanimous. Motion carries.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Kronschnabel -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input: none.
- II. Hoel/Wallin motion to approve the March 16, 2023 & March 30, 2023 minutes. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- III. Friends of KVR Update. Bader: FKVR will be doing annual roadside cleanup on their Adopt-a-Highway trail section Saturday, April 22nd – sponsoring a poetry contest for students in grades 3rd-8th – received over 100 entries. Saturday afternoon poets of merit will be presenting their poetry as part of Earth Day celebration. Upcoming events include a volunteer appreciation dinner planned for June, hospitality table on July 4th, garden tour in July, and staff appreciation dinner in August. Wag bags are now available for sale in the Friends gift shop.
- IV. Informational Items.
- Introduction of new Natural Resource Specialist. Kronschnabel: introduce new Natural Resource Specialist, Blake Cwynar. Excited to bring him on board. Cwynar has passion for conservation - shown through a lot of volunteerism, education and previous experiences in research and field work. Previous work includes working with the Department of Natural Resources as Parks & Recreation Specialist at Yellowstone State Park. Experience doing vegetation surveys as well as other animal surveys. Welcome Blake – official start date is May 8th. Also, will be bringing on Colleen Grefe as a summertime LTE grounds crew member.
 - Education Update. Kronschnabel: Manke/Kronschnabel will be travelling to meet with Quackenbush/Brown May 11th to discuss how to better incorporate Ho-Chunk interest in KVR education programming – Quackenbush has ideas on outreach to other locations and schools - talking about Master Naturalist program, as Ho-Chunk offers their own, looking at ways to collaborate. Several KVR staff have enrolled in a series of webinars - US Geological Survey. Webinars available online - encourage others to check it out. Designed for people in resource management agencies how to build respectful relationships and ethical approaches.
 - Update on revised Emergency Plan for KVR/School groups. [Emergency Management Plan on screen]. Kronschnabel: concerns with safety brought up at previous meetings mainly regarding Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS). State statutes require that you have a safety plan. Kronschnabel communicated with the Department of Justice - Office of School Safety who is also working with Meaghan Gustafson to develop a plan. No matter where the Forest School is located it needs to be addressed - in the end it is the school district's responsibility to come up with a plan. KVR will assist in the development and have input. West sent an email saying there is no safety plan in place for KVR – draft form of plan is being updated and added to – will include maps. So everyone knows, there is/was a plan in place.
 - Dark sky update. Lind: John Heasley in process of revising application - will resubmit in next 4-6 weeks - hoping for no surprises - continue to do community outreach and engagement. Lind working on lighting evaluations which is all part of application process.
 - NEEF Grant update. Kronschnabel: Brandon Bleuer, Ho-Chunk Forest and Wildlife manager submitted grant for pollinator habitat - grant was not approved - Bleuer reaching out for feedback - still planning to go forward with converting 131 acres into pollinator habitat - KVR still wants to pursue with our acreage (60 acres – little by little).
 - Budget Update. Kronschnabel met with the Department of Administration budget analyst a few days ago. Budget looks great overall. Healthy balance in 12100 appropriation – however upcoming expenses include

Bridge 18 planks, concrete work outside visitor center entrance, groomer, vehicle lease, and Land Acknowledgment sign. Upcoming revenue includes trail permits being reimbursed by FKVR, and reimbursement for Summer Willis time from La Farge School District. 16100 - about \$5,000 remaining in supplies and services - will be sure to get spent down. Land Acknowledgment Sign [reviewed on screen] 20X24 bronze plaque embedded into local rock - rock to be donated by Krueger excavating - place rock outside Visitor Center entrance - cost \$2,926 - Kronschnabel would like to move forward with purchasing.

- NPR interview. Kronschnabel: Brown initially approached to do an interview about Earth Week on indigenous knowledge and management of lands. Brown suggested the topic of co-management of the KVR. Susan Bence, Environmental Journalist with Milwaukee Public Radio (89.7) - conducted interview with Kronschnabel/Brown on March 23rd - talked about history of KVR, Memorandum of Understanding, the mission, and co-management including projects KVR and Ho-Chunk are working on together (prairie burns, trail work, Weister Creek project) - discussed other initiatives we are excited about – creating more pollinator habitat – master naturalist program – state natural areas and habitat initiative – Kickapoo bird habitat initiative. The story will air on Monday April 24th.
- Temporary Classroom Update – Wieser Brothers estimate. Kronschnabel: Gustafson, Leis, Kronschnabel, Andy from Wieser Brothers, and a civil engineer met via Teams - talked about using job trailer for temporary classroom - either 12x40 or 12x60 to house classroom and office space. Looking at how to anchor trailer to concrete for safety and weatherizing. Potentially site on upper SW corner of upper parking lot or on the blacktop down near garage - just looking at possibilities - do not have any numbers yet.
- Earth week events update [show YIHS pictures on screen]. Yocum: Earth Week kicked off April 15th at KVR with trash pickup and Garlic Mustard gathering. Had groups on property throughout the week assisting with clean up and garlic mustard. April 20th, two Ho-Chunk nation youth service groups and Youth Initiative High School (YIHS) learned traditional language, team building activities, nature journaling - YIHS fed around 100 people for lunch. On Saturday, April 22nd more earth week activities - poetry contest - garlic mustard weigh in - live music - zero waste potluck meal - Driftless Dialogue - froggy starry walk.

V. Action Agenda (Decision Items).

- Storage Container purchase. Leis: need for more storage - metal shipping container - cheapest option - would work for what we need. Leis quoted prices from a few different vendors. 8ft wide by 9.5 tall by 40 foot long - range from \$3,800-\$4,000 each including delivery. Need two containers to be placed behind Maintenance building, back-to-back for a total of 80 foot long. Lind - any prep needed? Leis: put gravel underneath them or put on railroad ties – not a lot of prep work. Kronschnabel: these would be permanent. Hoel suggests paying a little more for the more aesthetically looking option. Wallin/Mann motion to approve purchase of two units. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- Pollinator Habitat (in fields that are State owned). Leis suggests this topic going through Land Management (LM) before coming to the Board. In the 2020-2025 Land Management Plan indicates that KVR will make pollinator habitat a priority – doesn't include how many acres. KVR staff identified about 60 acres - could cost around \$1,000 per acre to do that work - does KRMB want to pursue and how much are we willing to spend. Lind: need to develop a plan and go through LM. Lind/Brown supportive of pursuing this. Hoel/Lind motion for topic to go back to LM for further discussion. Unanimous. Motion carries.

VI. Education & Tourism Committee Report. Manke: committee met April 6th – scheduled 21 school groups from 16 districts with over 1,000 students coming to visit between April and June. Hired 3 new instructors – in the process of training them. Summer camp - 182 camp registrations so far - 21 camps – 265 spots - excited about new camp offerings. Upcoming events: May 13th - 2 Driftless Dialogues – one on bumblebees and another on monarch populations; May 17th student art experience – follow up to Creative Communities event; May 17th in the evening will be informational citizen scientist monarch monitoring. In progress of building monarch enclosure that will be in the lobby this summer. Also, bringing to the Board's attention a couple issues that have arose with school groups coming in. First being space in storm shelters - not sure if school groups can fit. Also, met with KVFS teachers and talked about shared spaces – needing better communication with who can be where when - conflict with space and larger groups coming in - need to get this worked through. KVR is limited in what we can offer. Willing to work through these issues just making everyone aware.

VII. Land Management Update. No meeting. Leis: timing has not worked to be able to do much trail work. Not dry enough to get out on trails, then too hot to burn. Eventually able to get out on trails and cut some trees off

the trails - last fall/winter was tough on trees – a lot more work to go – need volunteers reporting downed trees. Prescribes burn update - have not done any yet – prior to warm temps would have been burning dead grass – then too hot, followed by snow and rain - hoping to get a few done next week. Also, chainsaw safety training coming up – first classes (level 1) May 10th and 20th - Lind mentions covering the cost of saw training for volunteers. Leis: has not been done before. Because the class is being offered here, KVR receives two free spots on each date - Manke will be participating as well as new LTE Grefe – only two of four spaces being used by KVR staff. Could open to a couple volunteers – not sure what the price is now. Luke Saunders is the one offering the classes through the Driftless Folk School. Lind: suggests paying for volunteers who are willing to complete the training and volunteer on KVR. Yocum will put notice on volunteer portal about saw training and trail work.

- VIII. Finance Committee Update. Lind: committee met April 19th - Gustafson requested to attend meeting – asked that we allow LF Schools to consider hiring Wieser brothers to do feasibility study only for temporary classroom – seems like a good first step. No further recommendation for the KRMB at this point. Question raised as to why we need a feasibility study for temporary classroom? Lind: important to think through all the potential issues and need thorough analysis before constructing anything - next meeting is April 24th.
- IX. Enforcement Update. Leis: working with Officer Malanka on enforcement policy - meet once a week go over questions on policies - all mandatory policies are complete meaning in compliance. Leis and others participated in four hours of rescue task force training at LF Schools on Tuesday. Leis/Malanka looking at purchasing external vest carriers (bullet proof vests) - goes over top of shirt – will be getting fitted for those - cost \$1,200 each - identifies as police – weight of items distributed on vests instead of belt.
- X. Other issues.
- None.
- XI. Next KRMB meeting May 18, 2023. Zahm/Hoel motion to adjourn, motion carries. The meeting adjourned 8:03 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk