

Kickapoo Reserve Management Board

January 18, 2024

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

In Person Attendance: Adali Mann, Bill Quackenbush, Travis Downing, Scott Lind, Luke Zahm, Julie Hoel, Joel Charles, Dave Maxwell, Reggie Nelson, Barb Sarnowski

Staff in Person: Jason Leis, Maggie Schultz, Jackie Yocum

Staff on zoom: Marcia Bader

Audience: 23 total. 13 in person, 10 on zoom

I. Open Session – Call to Order 6:02pm

**Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve agenda by Quackenbush, 2nd by Zahm
All in favor - Motion carries.**

Land Acknowledgement Statement – read by Hoel

Public Posting Compliance – Yes, Leis

Public Input: Request by Marcy West (arrived late, invited to speak between IV and V)
Apologies for late arrival. Addressed KRMB regarding Prairie Springs Buildings 1 and 2, future and location of those buildings. Spoke regarding project donor intentions. Shared opinion on benefits of KVFS and community relations.

II. Consent Agenda

Note: Lind: Regarding, November minutes, there were two sets of minutes made available to the board, one with more detail. Amended approval for both sets of November 2023 minutes will be on February 2024 agenda.

December 2023 minute amendments

1. Change B. Quackenbush to present
2. Correction of Scott Welter to Walter (page 2)
3. Change R. Nelson to present – online

**Motion to approve December minutes as amended by Quackenbush, 2nd Charles
All in favor – Motion carries.**

III. Decision Items

1. Request by WI DOT for extension of apron outside of right of way on STH 131 project.
Land Management recommendation to allow work outside of right-of-way with clean equipment inspection prior to work.
Discussion: Leis: Explanation of work to be done and location. Culvert 62-131-053737 located approximately 0.62 miles north of Star Valley Road, 301 ft road tube under STH 131. WI DOT to prevent scour and erosion, requesting allowance to do extend apron to outside of right-of-way. WI DOT is looking for KRMB approval to proceed with project.
Lind: Appreciates the detailed drawings presented and knowing the areas of impact.
Charles: Land Management recommends requiring inspection of equipment prior to work. Hoel: Question clarifying location of project and is there a culvert there now?
Leis: Just south of Mule Camp, Camp J. Yes, there is an existing culvert there now, this

would just be apron work. Zahm: Will there be an archeological and biological impact study before work is conducted? Leis: Yes, DOT has an extensive list of requirements because there is Federal money involved. DOT will do an environmental impact survey, archeological checks should be done, will follow NEPA rules.

Motion to approve request by WI DOT to work outside of right-of-way on culvert project only after clean equipment inspection by KVR Executive Director.

Motion by Downing, 2nd by Charles

All in favor – motion carries

2. Proposal for KVR Annual Pass to be included with Ho-Chunk Nation Membership. Explanation & Discussion: Zahm: Explanation of request. Sentiment by former KRMB member Tina Brown regarding shared equity between management partners KVR and HCN, all revenue currently is routed through the state without any remuneration financially for members of the nation. A conversation started about providing HCN members an annual pass to the KVR in an effort to allow recreation more freely, to be able to appreciate and enjoy the reserve, this is also a way to recognize the joint management and increasing the incentive of future partnerships. Charles: Is there anything that prevents KRMB from granting that? Zahm: No, KVR currently offers annual permits at no cost to veterans. Hoel: Delivery system in mind? Leis: Allowance for HCN tribal members to obtain a KVR annual permit with their HCN membership. Present Tribal membership at KVR and receive KVR Annual Permit. Quackenbush: Strike tribal membership for Tribal ID card. Hoel: Is this for annual permit? Lind: Yes, annual permit only. Maxwell: In favor, is anything being missed? Quackenbush: Positive steps to encourage tribal members to frequent property, good measure, and outreach to tribal members. Another way of fulfilling Land Acknowledgement Statement. Be careful of number of permits issued per family, make sure they are going to tribal members with Tribal ID. Maxwell: Are there other groups that will say you did it for them and you should do it for us? Quackenbush: The answer would have to be, bring it before the KRMB.

Motion to provide, at no cost, a KVR Annual Permit to HCN members with Tribal ID Card.

Motion by Charles, 2nd by Zahm

All in favor, Motion carries.

3. Recommendation from Land Management Committee for “No Buggies” signage on Highway Old 131 Trail. Explanation and Discussion: Downing: During gun deer season, evidence of Amish buggies on Old Hwy 131 Trail. Old 131 Trail is closed to horses between November 15 and May 1st annually. Looking to add a “No Buggies” sign on Old 131 and Indian Creek Trail Trailheads. Also, send a letter to elders of the Amish community reminding of rules on KVR. Hoel: Are horses allowed on Old 131 on July 4th during vehicle tour? Leis: Yes, horses are allowed on Old Hwy 131 Trail between May 1st and November 15, including July 4th. The designated equestrian trail is to the side of the blacktop. More of the issue is the use of the blacktop, which is not a designated equestrian trail. Hoel: Prior to the sign, suggests talk to a bishop regarding a new policy. Leis: This is not a new policy, Downing: Already signs that says trails are closed to equestrians after November 15. The addition would be to include buggies. Charles: In

favor of reaching out and having intentional communication with the Amish Community explaining the rules and why. Quackenbush: Cautions additional signage in general on the property. Has always been a policy of the reserve to keep signage to a minimum, and for the reserve to remain in a pristine manner and uncluttered with human presence. Through the years signage has become more. Recognizes the difficulty to patrol the reserve 24-7 and the need for directional and rule signage. In favor of addressing the community to inform them of the policy prior to resorting to more signage. The reserve is different than other public properties. Cautions falling into the trap of overuse of signage. Downing: Challenge of who to contact within the community. Suggests outreach when they are on the property. Hoel: Volunteers to make initial contact with community, asking who to approach and when. Leis: Made contact with Amish community members on the KVR in the past. Many times, youth here fishing without adults. Downing: Agrees with talking with the community first, notes challenges with communication methods. Charles: Is this an urgent problem that connecting with the community and see how that goes, and if that fails resort to signage later? Leis: There is no urgency at this time. Quackenbush: Is there a safety concern with horses on the property during gun deer season, do they use blaze orange on their horses? Downing: No they do not use blaze orange on their horses. Leis: Definitely a safety concern to allow Amish to have their horses on the KVR during gun deer season. Hoel: Do Amish hunters wear blaze orange? Downing: Yes, at least, vest and a hat. Leis: 50% blaze orange above the waist is required for all hunters.

Motion to approach Amish community first with rule reminders, and if further incidents occur, display “No Buggies” signage on Old Hwy 131 trailheads.

Motion by Charles, 2nd by Quackenbush

All in favor – Motion carries.

IV. Friends of KVR update

Ashley Walker representing Friends of KVR. Not many updates. Held concessions at Winter Festival, still working through numbers. Thank you to wonderful volunteers. Cancelled January meeting due to lack of quorum. February 20, 2024, is the next scheduled Friends of KVR Board meeting.

V. Informational Items

1. Progress Report from Ad Hoc Committee

Lind: Progress report packet shared with KRMB members. Committee members were tasked to focus on two categories: Relationship between KVFS and KVR and facility requirements of KVR and KVFS. Discussions have been excellent. Representatives of KRMB on Ad hoc Committee include: Quackenbush, Lind, Hoel, Zahm, Leis.

2. Winter Festival Update

Leis: Thank you to sponsors, partners, 15 presenters, 34 volunteers, and visitors. Special thank you to Friends of KVR and Ho-Chunk Nation. Thank you to local businesses and individuals who donated. Final budget numbers are forthcoming. A major snowstorm (12.5 inches) the 24 hours before the event. 19 degrees. Plenty of snow, weather as always determines

attendance. Around 400 people. Successful event. Thank you to the staff for hard work and dedication to make the event happen. Quackenbush: 264 ft was the longest Snow Snake throw.

VI. Land Management Committee Report – Met on January 16, 2024, 5:30pm - Downing

- Beginning discussion on upgrades to website and public facing web presence
- Update on 16-acre Berlin property
- Beaver activity update – infrastructure impacts & mitigation
- Cross country skiing conditions and grooming update
- Pollinator planting priorities
- DOT out of right of way request

VII. Finance Committee- Met on January 8, 2024, at 9am - Zahm

- Update on tree sponsorship receipts \$4091 to date, continue to collect funds. 40 white oaks have been purchased and will be planted in the spring.
- Friends of KVR has a surplus of funds for KVR to work into KVR budget and programs
- Grooming machine updates
- Maintenance Building heating update
- DOA Budget Team meeting and update
- Received Snowtrekker donation of \$1300 from Winter Festival gathering

VII. Law Enforcement Update -Leis

- Slow time of year. Will have more patrols on as Ice Hike season ramps up.
- Department policy work continues.
- Future agenda item, KRMB approval of mandatory enforcement policies.

VIII. Other Issues/Future Agenda Items

- Quackenbush: Will some type of formal announcement be created for the nation explaining Tribal ID/KVR Annual Permit. Something for a newsletter.
Zahm: Yes, will work on it
- Quackenbush: 5-year management plans are due in 2025. Leis confirms. Quackenbush to begin work on updating Cultural Resource Management Plan to work with Leis on the project.
- Lind: State Natural Area document forthcoming
- Quackenbush: Explore KVR becoming recognized as a National Historic Place, recognized as a National Landmark. KVR potentially has components required for World Heritage Site.
- Hoel: Request for trainings in how board and committees should work.

Motion to adjourn by Charles 2nd by Zahm

All in favor, motion carries. 7:50pm

Minutes recorded by J. Yocum 1/25/2024