

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

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Scott Lind. Maxwell: Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- Board members in attendance: Joel Charles, Travis Downing, Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, AJ Mann, Dave Maxwell, Reggie Nelson, Barb Sarnowski, Luke Zahm. Absent: Tina Brown, Bill Quackenbush. Staff in-person: Erica Cronk, Jason Leis, Christian Malanka, Maggie Manke, Jackie Yocum. Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcopa News; Beth Unger, Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve (FKVR) board member; Jonel Kiesau; Dan Goltz; Meaghan Gustafson. Via Zoom: Marcia Bader, FKVR Treasurer; Mark Katz; Tom Miron, FKVR President; Jen Oium.
 - Motion by Downing/Zahm to approve the agenda. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Lind -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Introduction of Joel Charles as new KRMB watershed member. Replaces Dick Wallin as watershed resident. Charles: family doctor with Vernon Memorial Healthcare in Soldiers Grove. Has appreciated being able to come to Reserve personally and for his patients. Runs group called Healthy Climate Wisconsin – organizes and trains health professionals to advocate for climate policy. Important that people have access to healthy land – very committed to helping with this. Wants to honor history of KVR – looks forward to working with everyone.
 - Public Input: none.
- II. Election of Officers. Lind requests nominations for Chair. Hoel/Sarnowski nominate Lind for Chair. Unanimous election of Lind for Chair. Lind requests nominations for Vice Chair. Mann/Lind nominate Downing for Vice Chair. Unanimous election of Downing for Vice Chair. Lind requests nomination for secretary. Maxwell/Mann nominate Zahm for Secretary. Unanimous election of Zahm for Secretary.
- III. Mann/Zahm motion to approve the June 15, 2023 minutes with corrections of removing the word only in the National Trails section 1 of 9 trails and including the KRMB wording on page three - the comment by Maxwell on consensus from public and KRMB in regards to Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS). **Minutes approved as amended. Unanimous. Motion carries.**
- IV. Friends of KVR Update. Unger: Friends are fully supportive of KVR throughout transition. Friends hosted hospitality table on July 4th at visitor center – big success – ran out of cookies and lemonade halfway through. July 15th hosted 4th annual garden walk in Viroqua from 3-7pm – had 115 attendees – raised \$1,735.00. August 23rd Friends will be having appreciation cook-out for KVR staff. October 6th Dam Challenge pasta supper. December 2nd Holiday Happening – start planning early.
- V. Informational Items.
- Update on Executive Director hiring process. Lind: position posted on July 10th. Applications are due September 1st. Selection committee is made up of Hoel, Maxwell, Sarnowski, Nelson and Zahm. Committee needs to pick a Chair and let Lind know who that is or give that contact to Nathan at Dept. of Administration.
 - Update on ad hoc KVFS committee. Lind: first meeting was held July 19th at La Farge Schools. Quackenbush, Lind, Hoel, Leis attended from KVR. Good kick off meeting. Walked and viewed potential sites. Meeting every two weeks on Wednesdays starting at 4pm. Have permission to meet at Town of Stark. Next meeting Eric Hartwig has agreed to walk through strategic planning process. Goal is to take KVFS discussion off plate of KRMB until January or until recommendations are ready. All welcome to attend – open to the public.
 - Request for permission to place picnic tables from KVFS. Walter had approved tables before he left. Five tables total. Idea to reduce amount of time students spend on deck – tables would go down below PS#1. School purchased specific tables that do not dig into the ground. Will keep a close eye on mud situation. Decision Walter made stands – picnic tables can be placed.
 - Request from canoe liveries to allow placement of dumpsters at landings 5, 7, 10, and 12 at no cost to KVR. No recommendation from LM. Outfitters would like to place dumpsters at specific landings - empty once per week and would need to be secured. Charles: trash overflow and appearance a consideration. Zahm:

uncomfortable with idea – sends the wrong message – continue pack it in, pack it out. Maxwell: fine with dumpsters although flooding is a concern. Zahm: inviting people to dump trash in them. Lind: agrees with Zahm, likes current system pack it in, pack it out. Hoel: they could try Landing 4 as a test landing. Leis: trash issues have been much better since KVR removed trash recyclables. Hoel: outfitters should be recognized and appreciated for their efforts.

VI. Decision Items:

- LM recommendation to proceed with \$30k for seed planting for pollinator habitat based on Finance funding level recommendation. Lind: Finance Committee met and reviewed current funding availability -recommend LM spend up to \$30,000 on pollinator habitat improvement. Leis: \$30,000 at first intended to be split for tree planting and pollinator habitat. Yocum created Sponsor a Tree program. People would donate for the trees and fund the tree planting that way. The \$30,000 for pollinator habitat could be focused more on buying the seed for seed planting. Number of trees needed is comparable in price to seed. \$270/tree if between six and ten feet tall. Identified up to 30 acres of priority pollinator habitat and came up with a timeline. Focus more on forbs and shorter grasses – taller prairie grasses tend to take over.
- LM recommendation to initiate a tree sponsorship program starting with 90 trees for Hanson Rock. [review on screen]. Yocum: in an effort to reforest the six-acre field on the top of Hanson Rock – need 90 trees. Individuals can purchase a tree for themselves, in memory of someone, or in honor of someone. KVR plants and cares for the tree. Each tree would have a GPS location kept in a database by KVR. Could be ongoing program. Hoel: does arch site need to be checked out. Mann: anywhere getting disturbed should be surveyed – question for Quackenbush. Zahm/Downing motion to proceed \$30,000 for seed planting. **Unanimous. Motion carries.** Hoel/Sarnowski motion to proceed with tree planting with contingency that it is cleared by Quackenbush and consulted with Mississippi Valley Archeological Center, if required. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
- Facilities Lease Agreement for KVFS 2023/24. [review on screen and handout]. Lind: review summary of changes to lease agreement. KVFS will be billed quarterly for actual time spent by KVR employees rather than an estimate. Go over breakdown of \$32,400 lease amount. Charles: if buildings change ownership what happens to allowance KVFS has paid to KVR for long term repair and maintenance of PS#1 and PS#2. Lind: this agreement only covers this year, so we will wait and see. Hoel: important that allowance earmarked for building maintenance be set aside for that purpose. Zahm/Maxwell motion to accept lease as written. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**

VII. Education & Tourism Committee Report. No committee meeting since last KRMB meeting. Manke: summer camps are going well. Busy working on planning for Dam Challenge.

VIII. Land Management Update. Committee met July 5th. Downing: canoe outfitters requested signage at bridges with bridge number(s) be larger – customers are missing their take-outs because they cannot see the signage. They would be willing to pay for the signs. Just bringing this to KRMB attention.

IX. Finance Committee Update. Lind: committee met last month and discussed recommendation back to LM about pollinator habitat. Looking to move committee meetings to prior to the monthly KRMB meetings.

X. Enforcement Update. Leis: weekend before July 4th had strategic law enforcement set up along river – 3 wardens, Park Officer, La Farge and Ontario police chief, Wisconsin State Patrol, Leis and Malanka – no major violations. Regular patrols on property this season. Malanka: closed the case on the theft of kayak and paddle – both recovered.

XI. Other issues.

- Board member matters or requests for future agenda topics. Hoel: would like to revisit motion regarding siting of KVFS given changes with Fleckenstein Foundation. Lind asked Hoel before then to share with board what she is thinking.

XII. Next KRMB meeting August 17, 2023. Downing/Charles motion to adjourn, motion carries. The meeting adjourned 8:14 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk