

**Kickapoo Reserve Management Board
Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2025**
Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

Board members present: Travis Downing (Chair), Kjetil Garvin (via Zoom), Scott Lind, Reggie Nelson, Bill Quackenbush (via Zoom), Kelly Rueckheim, Damian Thundercloud, Lyndsey Winchel, Luke Zahm

Board members absent: Barb Sarnowski

Staff members present: Jason Leis, Amy Dvorak, Jackie Leis, Jesse Haney, Amber Burch

Others in attendance: None.

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

Downing read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Zahm made a motion to approve the agenda. Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all ayes.

Leis confirmed the agenda was properly posted.

Thundercloud motioned to approve the minutes from the October 2025 meeting, and Winchel seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.

Chairperson and/or Executive Director report:

Downing asked all board members to let Leis know if they cannot make the meeting.

Budget Report:

The Appropriation Summary from November 3, 2025 was shared on the screen. Leis said the FY2026 operation budget has not been entered yet. The WI DOA BFM accountants are not concerned about our balances. We cannot replace the roof and heat pumps in the same year.

Friends of KVR Update:

Jackie Leis shared an update as no Friends of KVR member was present. The Friends' new website is operational. Holiday Happening is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 12 pm to 5 pm at the Visitor Center.

Public appearances:

None.

Fee increase recommendations for 2026:

The fee recommendations from each committee were shared on the screen. The Finance Committee recommended leaving the annual fees the same with an additional \$10 fee per annual pass for bikers, skiers, and/or equestrians. A discussion ensued. There were concerns about

singling out user groups and how this could be enforced. Lind suggested a voluntary donation for those users since they have more impact on the trails. There was a discussion about encouraging more people to become a member of the Friends of KVR, which costs \$15.

Board members discussed the opportunity for hunters to donate. Hunters are not required to obtain a pass to hunt on the property, and no fee can be charged. A legislative change would be needed to be able to charge hunters, and the legislators said they would not make the change.

Lind made a motion to adopt the fees as shown with the exception of the Finance Committee's suggestion, but we investigate the possibility of an additional voluntary fee for non-hiking users (bikers, equestrians, skiers, and hunters). Quackenbush requested a bullet noting no cost for Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN) tribal members. Leis said there is also no charge for disabled veterans. Winchel seconded the motion. Leis suggested the motion be reworded to make the voluntary fee for anyone, not only non-hikers. A discussion ensued.

Zahm discussed the Finance Committee's research into commercial use fees. He would like to see the committees discuss the commercial use fees and the educational verbiage further.

Burch said the increase of the day-use programming rate would increase in the 2026-2027 school year, not on January 1, 2026.

Lind restated his motion. He made a motion to adopt the fee increases as stated on the shared document with the exception of the Finance Committee's recommendation for annual passes and to investigate the possibility of creating a voluntary amount-to-be-determined donation for bikers, equestrians, skiers, and possibly hunters. Winchel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all ayes.

Information Request Resolution regarding proposed 765 kV transmission line:

The draft was shared on the screen. Winchel recommended cleaning up the punctuation and other grammatical errors on the document before signing it.

Thundercloud said he is waiting for action from the KRMB before bringing this topic up to the HCN legislative session, which is on December 8, 2025.

Thundercloud made a motion to approve the Information Request Resolution. Zahm seconded the motion.

Quackenbush asked to add a balloon test requirement along the entire length of the proposed transmission line. Number 25 was added to include, "Complete and provide a report of a balloon test along the entire length of the proposed 765 kV transmission line in the presence of the Ho Chunk Nation and Kickapoo Valley Reserve representatives."

The motion passed unanimously.

Land Management and Cultural Management Plans review and approval:

The draft Cultural Resources Management Plan was shared on the screen. Quackenbush said in Appendix E, the definition for HDHP is incorrect. It was changed as follows:

HDHP. Ho-Chunk Department of Heritage Preservation consists of ~~three~~ four ~~Divisions: Natural Resources; Cultural Resources; Enrollment; Language; and Veterans Affairs, and Archives.~~

The following was also changed within Appendix E:

Historical. ~~These are remains~~ The period of time that post-dates the first European exploration and settlement.

Lind made a motion to approve the Cultural Resources Management Plan with the revisions. The motion was seconded by Rueckheim, and it passed unanimously.

The draft Land Management Plan was shared on the screen.

Lind made a motion and Rueckheim seconded to approve the Land Management Plan without revisions. The motion passed with all ayes.

Education and Tourism Committee:

There was no meeting in November.

The next Education and Tourism Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

Finance Committee:

There was no meeting in November.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

Land Management Committee:

Downing said all topics from the November 2025 Land Management Committee meeting were already discussed during this board meeting.

The next Land Management Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

Board Member Matters:

None.

Request for future agenda topics:

Lind said the Kickapoo Dark Sky Initiative (KDSI) was approved to have at least two Natural Resources Foundation field trips in May and September 2026. There will be a maximum of 40 attendees per trip. Per the rules at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, this may require a commercial

use agreement. Lind requested a discussion and possible action item at the next board meeting to determine if the KDSI needs a commercial use agreement for the field trips.

Adjournment:

Rueckheim made a motion and Thundercloud seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Quackenbush opposed and made an announcement. He said the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation requested Lind come to their board meeting to discuss the dark sky initiative. Lind said he would be glad to do that.

Quackenbush invited the board members to paddle the Wisconsin River on the dugout canoe trip next year. He will share details as they develop.

The motion then passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

Minutes transcribed by Amy Dvorak, Executive Assistant