

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
March 16, 2023

- I. 7:06 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Scott Lind.
- Board members in attendance: Tina Brown, Travis Downing, Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, Barb Sarnowski, Dick Wallin. Via Zoom: Dave Maxwell, Reggie Nelson. Absent: Bill Quackenbush, AJ Mann, Luke Zahm. Staff in-person: Erica Cronk, Lynn Kronschnabel, Jason Leis, Christian Malanka, Maggie Manke, Jackie Yocum. Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcope News; Beth Unger, Friends of KVR (FKVR); David Jablonowski, local resident. Audience via Zoom: Meaghan Gustafson, La Farge Schools Superintendent; Jonel Kiesau, Leadership and Planning Coordinator - Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS).
 - Motion by Wallin/Downing 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. Downing/Wallin motion to approve the January 26, 2023 minutes. Unanimous. Motion carries. Hoel/Sarnowski motion to approve the February 4, 2023 KRMB retreat minutes. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- III. Friends of KVR Update. Unger: last Friends Board meeting held February 21, 2023. Moving forward with Earth Day Poetry Contest. Looking at partnering with Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) on future spring event. Prairie Springs (PS) classroom #2 has been transferred from Friends to State of Wisconsin. Roadside clean-up coming up. Lind: note from building inspector that both buildings (PS#1 & PS#2) have been inspected and signed off on.
- IV. Informational Items.
- Filling current vacancies. Kronschnabel: Welcome Maggie Manke as new KVR Education Coordinator. Started on Monday – off to a great start. Previously worked at Hillsboro Schools. Maggie excited to be here. Update on Natural Resource Specialist position. Position has been posted – deadline to apply is March 20. Kronschnabel worked with Human Resources on position description and pay increase.
 - KRMB expiring terms and nomination process. Lind: actively post when terms are expiring including newspapers, website, social media, etc.
 - Budget Update [handout and review on screen]. Kronschnabel: a quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 23 remaining. Appropriations in good standing. Known upcoming expenses include gutters, groomer, and bridge planks for Bridge 18 ramp. Will work with DOA accountants to spend down 16100 and 12400 appropriations which do not carry over into new FY.
 - Creative Communities Canvas Project update. Yocum: over 200 canvases available for bidding via online auction. Auction opened Saturday, March 4 and closes Sunday, March 26 at 5pm CST. Winning canvases available for pick up starting Monday, March 27. Fundraiser for KVR Education and Events Programs.
 - Garlic Mustard Gathering. Yocum: Weeklong stewardship event. Goal to get as many people pulling garlic mustard as possible. Friendly weigh-in competition on Saturday, April 22nd. Zero waste potluck meal and other activities planned for day.
 - Building and grounds improvements. Kronschnabel: new gutters installed this week on front of garage, visitor center and on deck – still some tweaking that needs worked through but helping so far. Start working on roof replacement for garage and visitor center next. Contractor will be on site soon to paint interior of outdoor restrooms and all garage doors. Staff laid gravel leading up to PS#1 & #2 – big improvement dealing with soft ground and mud. Rented steam cleaner last week and cleaned chairs at visitor center.
 - Ho-Chunk grant application – NEEF grant for Enhancing Pollinator Habitats. Brown: Ho-Chunk did not renew agriculture grants on the Reserve – looking at different options that coincide with co-management and working together to best serve the environment. Forestry and Wildlife within the Ho-Chunk DNR is going to apply for the NEEF grant- so far in letter of intent stage. Kronschnabel: grant is for biodiversity conservation to enhance pollinator habitats with a minimum of 150 acres. Ho-Chunk identified 130 acres. KVR staff identified additional acres - former ag fields or low-quality grassy areas that could be planted

with warm season grasses in the lower, wet sections. Kronschnabel wrote letter of support focused on environmental education, Master Naturalist, school groups and using volunteers for seed collecting and brush cutting along edges. Grant requires community engagement and education. Co-managing with Ho-Chunk great opportunity to work together as well as utilize the seeder the Friends of KVR owns.

- New Grandstand Multi Force 52” mower from Toro. Leis: KVR selected as business to receive a new piece of equipment. Selected the standing zero-turn mower valued at \$15,600. Will be sure to send thank you.

V. Action Agenda (Decision Items).

- Next steps and longer-term arrangement for KVFS/KVR. Lind: general contractor Wieser Brothers was on site last week looking at grounds. Viewed alternative site over by maintenance building. Wieser Brothers working on Feasibility Study. Hoel/Wallin motion to continue discussion for 30 minutes. Unanimous. Motion carries. Lind: should KVR continue to lease space to KVFS beyond June 2025. Hoel/Wallin motion to continue to lease building(s) space and use of grounds to KVFS beyond 2025. Discussion. Downing: in favor of doing so only if location of school is at maintenance building. Main concern is additional building being proposed on visitor center grounds. Hoel: KVR also uses PS classrooms. Brown: prefers entire campus in one location and not sited at visitor center. Wallin: security concern with school being sited at visitor center. Lind: financial impact and other associated costs – lease agreement may not be covering expenses. Maxwell: proponent of KVFS and thinks doing great service – supports continuing to lease on property either at visitor center or maintenance building. Nelson: supports continuing to lease to KVFS beyond 2025. Wallin: consider the costs of moving the PS classrooms to another location. Lind: in favor of keeping PS#1 at visitor center. Hoel/Brown motion to continue discussions in favor of KVFS with details pending. Hoel withdrew motion. Wallin/Brown motion to have separate meeting once we receive back feasibility study. Unanimous. Motion carries. Sarnowski/Hoel motion KRMB supports mission of KVFS and wish to continue our relationship with them. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- Establish expenditure limit authority for Executive Director. Lind: topic came up at Finance Committee meeting. Lind recalls limit of \$5,000 without KRMB authority. Wallin: does not remember that being a formal agreement. Marcy West confirmed never was a set limit. Downing/Lind motion of \$10,000 limit for expenditures by Executive Director without KRMB approval. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- Yellowstone Ginzu Groomer [review PowerPoint on screen]. Kronschnabel: grooming equipment in need of upgrade. Potential to attract more winter users. Better equipment would create much more even deck and better tracks. Land Management Committee recommends purchasing new or used groomer. Ginzu Groomer hold their value. Approximately \$9,800 for new groomer. Hoel/Sarnowski motion to purchase new groomer. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- Use of Wag Bags encouraged/required. Wallin: seeing an increase in winter camping. Sanitation has become an issue, especially at campsites. Land Management Committee recommends wag bags being highly encouraged for users but not required at this point. Hoel/Lind motion to encourage use of wag bags year-round for campers. Amend motion to include all users. Unanimous. Amended motion carries.

VI. Education & Tourism Committee Report. None. Committee last met in October. Next meeting April 6th, 2023

VII. Finance Committee Report. Lind: Committee has only met twice. A lot more to come at future meetings. Committee meetings are the last Monday of each month at 9am at the KVR Visitor Center.

VIII. Land Management Update. Committee met February 7, 2023. Wallin: Leis updated committee that ag lease soil testing was complete in fall of 2022. Testing completed on renewal years of ag lease contracts. Overall improvement on fields in terms of nutrient content of soil. Discussed need to harden some of the trails around visitor center. Discussed giving access to KVFS down to Old 131 Trail – staff will explore options. Discussed additional storage space for KVR and KVFS. Leis looked in to purchasing additional storage – one option being a shipping container. Cost effective and low maintenance. Still exploring options. Leis looking into changing access into visitor center – keypads.

IX. Law Enforcement Update. Leis: security issues related to KVFS. Malanka did initial assessment. Most important thing is to have a plan in place. Leis/Malanka working on this.

- X. Other issues.
- Board member matters or requests for future agenda topics. Wallin: dark sky initiative update. Hoel: update on Land Acknowledgement Statement signage. Sarnowski: KVFS Governance Council having representation from KRMB – 2 members. Lind: KRMB needs to decide who appoints these people.
 - Lind: read Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- XI. Next KRMB meeting April 20, 2023. Wallin/Downing motion to adjourn, motion carries. Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk