

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
March 18, 2021

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Richard Wallin.
- Board members in attendance via Zoom: Bill Quackenbush, Tina Brown, Reggie Nelson, Scott Lind, Julie Hoel, A.J. Mann; via meeting room: Richard Wallin, Travis Downing, Paul Hayes. Absent: Susan Cushing. Staff via Zoom: Marcy West, Jason Leis, Jonel Kiesau. Staff via meeting room: Erica Cronk. Audience via meeting room: Lonnie Muller, Episcopa News. Audience via Zoom: Christian Malanka.
 - Motion by Hayes/Downing to approve the Agenda. Unanimous.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: West -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Lind/Brown motion to approve February 18, 2021 minutes; motion carries.
- II. Budget Report -
- West update: Summer Hiring Plan – advertised on social media and local papers, hiring two full time laborers and one part time Office Associate – starting in late May and going through the busy season. Hiring one LTE law enforcement officer as well.
 - [Budget reviewed on screen]. 12100 revenue appropriation - camp revenue and recreation management revenue coming in strong. Watch closely as we get towards end of Fiscal Year ending June 30th. 12200 gifts and grants appropriation – upcoming transfer of funds from Friends group to exhibit upgrade line. 12400 law enforcement appropriation will watch closely as well – looks to be in good status. 16100 base allocation appropriation healthy balance but transfers will need to happen from 12100 appropriation, including fringe and LTE costs.
- III. State Guidelines regarding public access in relation to COVID-19; plan for re-opening Visitor Center April 5th.
- West – [review draft plan on screen]. Required to submit confirmation to Department of Administration (DOA) that precautions will be taken before opening a State building. Plan from DOA, Governor’s Office, Dept. of Health Services will re-open to employees at reduced number and open to the public April 5th assuming vaccine roll outs and infection rates fall. Draft plan includes doorbell system, designated entrance and exit, floor decals, plexiglass at front desk, and facemasks. Education Program following Two of Three Rule. West looking for clarification on ventilation system. Windows can be opened if it does not complicate the HVAC system. Look at transitioning bathrooms to touchless system. Potential funding available to State agencies after federal stimulus package. Hayes/Lind motion to approve draft for re-opening Visitor Center. Motion carries.
- IV. Education Program Update:
- Kiesau recap of school groups and summer camp. No formal announcement on school groups – doing a gradual open. Tentatively hosting a few school groups this spring. Kiesau working on policy for when school groups arrive related to COVID. Summer camp registrations continue to come in. 167 students enrolled in camp; 77 spots remaining. Camp revenue is helping with Education shortfall. Education intern hired for summer months.
 - Kiesau update on Event planning – discussed upcoming events at Education & Tourism Committee meeting on March 4th. Committee decision to forgo Tromp & Chomp this year. Event focuses a lot on food and timing does not seem right for this just yet. Will host a series of guided hikes this spring and summer through our Driftless Dialogue series; seven hikes lined up. Hoel is working on an event to coincide with National Trails Day June 5th. Watch for promotion to come out soon. Committee recommend moving forward with Dam Challenge; registration typically opens July 1st. No decision made on Winter Festival event; exhibits will be under construction.
 - Building Committee Update: Kiesau – Scott Lind volunteered to be Project Manager. Design Committee made up of Scott Lind and Mark Telshaw working on putting finishing touches on design that will be submitted to State Planning Committee. Also working on foundation, ventilation, and electric design of building. Lind stressed project is on a tight timeline. Hope to have set of drawings ready to go to State by April 15th; takes up to six weeks for plans to be reviewed. Considering an engineered foundation; advantages include minimal site disruption, less expensive, and removable. If can keep on track, looking at an August 15th completion date for building. Site Committee met and like the location of the building. Fundraising Committee chaired by Hoel - targeting specific donors. Hoel will also be working to round up volunteers for construction of building. [Review Education Program Building Project on screen]. Includes project timeline and budget. Hopeful a few special donors will bring in the funding we need; have over \$20,000 in pledges already. Do KRMB members want to weigh in on design drawings before Lind submits to State? Kiesau will send Zoom invite to KRMB members for Building Committee meeting

on Monday, March 22nd; any questions or concerns can be addressed then. West - special thanks to everyone involved.

- Exhibit Update [Final Interpretive Plan reviewed on screen]. Education & Tourism Committee made recommendation to accept plan and move forward with the planning; design planning comes next. Hoel/Hayes motion to accept final Interpretive Plan from Lord Design team. Motion carries.

V. Land Management Committee Update:

- Wallin – Committee met on March 9th. Discussed plans for Bridge 9 field; flood damaged and withdrawn from Ag Lease Agreement. Committee recommends to KRMB to allow field to return to natural succession; snowmobile trail would continue to get mowed. Downing/Hayes motion to let the field return to natural succession. Motion carries.
- Committee recommends to KRMB that visitors pack in, pack out all trash. Trash bins would not be put out at the canoe landings. Also consensus of Committee to continue to put water tank out at Willow Camp during summer weekends. Put signage on water tank informing users water is not potable for human consumption and will not be refilled over the weekend. Leis – would like to find long term solution where people can fill up tanks for watering animals. West – already have signed agreement with Village of La Farge; part of the Campground Licensing Agreement is that septic and water is available and licensed at La Farge campground - also noted on our maps. Hoel/Downing motion to discontinue trash bins at canoe landings but continue having the water tank at Willow Camp this summer. Motion carries.
- Land Acknowledgment Statement discussion – consensus something that could be done but better suited for Education and Tourism Committee meeting, working with Brown, Quackenbush, and Hosemann on drafting a statement to bring back to Land Management Committee and eventually to KRMB.
- Update on Volunteer Agreement [reviewed on screen]. Expanding volunteer use on the Reserve. List of volunteer opportunities [reviewed on screen]. Updated Chainsaw Safety Acknowledgment for those operating a chainsaw on the Reserve. Leis/Yocum will work on training materials and videos for onsite orientation of volunteers. Wallin – coordinate with Friends group on volunteer opportunities. Downing/Lind motion to approve updated Chainsaw Safety Acknowledgment. Motion carries.
- Update on Old Hwy 131 Trail protection project near Bridge 16. Leis -several DNR specialists and Vernon County Zoning rep. met down in that area. Stream cut back into Old 131 trail; in danger of river eroding trail away. Rock can be placed on bank next to Old 131 on east side of river, replacing the material that was eroded away in floods; Hydraulic Study not needed for this. Trees have been removed from west bank taking pressure off Old 131/east side of river. Plans will be done by late summer/early fall. Will need permit to haul rock.
- Hay Valley Trail update. Leis – going ahead with Hay Valley Trail boardwalk project. Ordered decking and framework for boardwalk. Applied for stream crossing permit. Once the ground is solid, can start moving materials in and take the old bridge out.
- Other Land Management updates: Leis - Prescribed burns did not happen in 2020. All fields are due to be burned. Priorities: pine plantation along Cty Rd P-West and Weister Creek project area. If the weather holds, plan to burn other areas as well. Re-bid of the timber sale off of Cty Rd P-West; never received bids first time around – pulp mills shut down due to COVID-19. Bids due April 15th.
- Enforcement Update: Leis – looking to hire another Officer; get them up and running before the busy season sets in. Working on getting lettering on new enforcement truck. Received quote for camera system in the truck. Update at lost hiker on the Reserve – woman out hiking, cell phone battery died after calling sister and told her she was lost. Sister called law enforcement. Search started around 8:30pm - the hiker was found around 12:20am on private property from a thermal imaging drone; over 80 search people looking for her. Grateful no one was injured - everyone pitched in and did a great job locating her.

VI. Other issues. Quackenbush – questions drone use by an FCC tower. Leis – KVR does not have a drone policy at this time. Quackenbush – KVR may want to consider adopting a policy specific for drone use on KVR property. Land Management Committee will work to develop policy for public use of drones on the Reserve.

VII. Calls for Suggestions of Future Agenda Items – none.

- Next KRMB meeting April 15, 2021. Quackenbush/Lind motion to adjourn; motion carries. Meeting adjourned 8:20PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk