

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
November 19, 2020

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Richard Wallin.
- Board members in attendance via Zoom: Richard Wallin, Travis Downing, Reggie Nelson, Susan Cushing, Dave Maxwell, A.J. Mann, Bill Quackenbush, Julie Hoel, Tina Brown; absent: Paul Hayes. Staff via Zoom: Marcy West, Jason Leis, Jonel Kiesau, Erica Cronk, Robin Hosemann, Jackie Yocum. Audience via Zoom: Lonnie Muller, Episcope News; Julia Buckingham, Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS) Lead Teacher.
 - Motion by Cushing/Hoel to approve the agenda. Unanimous.
 - Downing/Cushing motion to approve September 17, 2020 minutes; motion carried.
 - Public Input: None.
- II. Committee Appointments - Wallin appoints Julie Hoel, new Chair of the Education Committee replacing Ron Johnson. Any members wishing to change committees please notify him.
- III. Budget Report -
- West - [handout reviewed on screen]. FY21 Revenue and Expense Summary through October 31, 2020. The property continues to be extremely busy however with the cancellation of programs & events and all school groups creates significant budget concerns. State budget office will be releasing projections for all State agencies soon. Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) is somewhat protected as it is not dependent on General Purpose Revenue; 12400 and 16100 appropriations supported through segregated funds. There are some known big expenses coming up this FY including: sidewalk repair outside visitor center main doors; leak in the ground-source heating system that will need repaired and/or replaced; ATV replacement; Hay Valley Trail project; and bank stabilization near Bridge 16 off of Old Hwy 131 Trail.
 - Discussion and/or action on fees for 2021. West – [handout reviewed on screen]. Statute dictates fees set for 2021 before end of year. Discussion on 2020 fees. Look at how camping rates compared to County and State Parks. Handout lists current fees and FY19 fee breakdown. Cushing/Maxwell motion to leave fees as they are for 2021. Motion carries.
- IV. Education Program – planning progress for Charter School & discussion of possible facility expansion
- Update: Kiesau and Hosemann [review PowerPoint presentation on screen and answer questions]. Define what a public charter school is - funded by the State via Federal grant dollars; school is tuition free. A Forest School is child-centered with both academic and mental benefit by hands-on experiences in a natural setting, developing confidence and self-esteem. Pedagogy of Place is the framework or foundation of curriculum. A place-based education extends to community, region, and global understanding. The Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS) will begin enrollment in February 2021 and open in the fall with 32 students at capacity; gradual growth following two years (2022 and 2023) eventually 64 students and 4 teachers, 4 aides by year three (2023). Reviewed organizational chart with La Farge School District as the authorizer overseeing the grant. KVFS will be a sturdy revenue source for KVR. In conjunction with the KVFS, KVR will continue to offer one-day school group visits, summer camps, Saturday Programs and events that continue to meet demand. There will eventually be an agreement that needs worked out with KRMB approval regarding administrative and structural changes to KVR for Fall 2021.
 - Discussion on converting garage and/or adding satellite classroom(s). Leis is concerned with garage remodel and losing already limited storage space for equipment and supplies. Cushing would like the

board presented with more info. and pros/cons before board weighing in. Nelson comments to consider adding storage shed at Maintenance Building. Wallin suggests adding one building per year starting with Fall of 2021; staff need to present KRMB with costs, pros/cons, and timetable.

V. Other issues:

- Five-year status compliance with Memorandum of Understanding: West – [handout provided]. Sample letter from 2015; report to Ho-Chunk Nation President and State Governor. Marcy will update letter, so it is ready to send in December. West/Cronk working on formatting Land Management plan; will also highlight KVFS and property projects. West will send out to KRMB in draft form before submitting.
- Update: Exhibit Upgrade Campaign: West – restarted fundraising campaign. Starting on November 1st and going through December 31, 2020 there is a dollar for dollar match on all donations received through the Fleckenstein Trust. The Friends year-end appeal letter and remittance envelope was sent out the first week of November; have received over 100 envelopes back so far. The Single Step Foundation has pledged an additional \$50,000 and West submitted a grant for \$10,000 to the Stry Foundation. Fundraising goal is \$600,000 +. An Architect and Engineer has been selected; Division of Facilities Development working on finalizing contract. Friends of KVR transferred \$31,000 of funds to KRMB 12200 appropriation this week.
- Winter projects/recreation topics: West – received update from State this week that all non-essential state buildings, which includes KVR, will be closed until at least April 2, 2021. Guided ice cave hikes will not happen this season but may station workers and/or volunteers along popular ice cave trails on busy weekends and help answer questions and guide people. Leis will groom for cross-county skiing, as conditions allow, and snowshoeing will be an option for visitors this winter as well.
- Leis update on various projects: Leis working on getting contractor that did the Old 131 paving project from Landing 12 to Ho-Chunk boundary back out on property to fix drainage problem and put horse trail back where it should be. Work also being performed by Bridge 16 where Willow Trail meets Old Hwy 131 Trail; DNR recently removed trees from opposite side riverbank to eliminate impact on the side where the trail is; hoping to finish the work yet this winter. No bids were received for the timber harvest; it is a bad market for pine pulp right now; Leis took bid materials to a potential Amish family that may be interested in buying. Students from Westby have been doing a great job and helping again this year with various projects and invasive removal. The Hay Valley boardwalk will hopefully get done in the Spring of 2021. Kiesau also shared Ski-Club will not have in person instruction this year but the skis will be rented out to families and returned in the spring; huge interest and having to turn people away. Wallin updated that pheasant stocking is done for the season; released less birds this year due to the pandemic but saw license plates from near and far.

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

VII. Next KRMB meeting December 17, 2020, if needed. Quackenbush/Cushing motion to adjourn; motion carries. Meeting adjourned 8:30PM.

VIII. Recorded by: Erica Cronk