

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
October 26, 2023

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Scott Lind.
- Board members in attendance: Travis Downing, Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, AJ Mann, Dave Maxwell, Luke Zahm; Via Zoom: Barb Sarnowski. Absent: Joel Charles, Reggie Nelson, Bill Quackenbush. Staff in-person: Jason Leis, Maggie Schultz, Jackie Yocum; Via Zoom: Erica Cronk. Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcopo News; Via Zoom: Marcia Bader, Erin Stiverson.
 - Motion by Maxwell/Zahm to approve the agenda. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
 - Land Acknowledgement Statement: Downing.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Lind -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input. None.
- II. Zahm/Maxwell motion to approve the September 21, 2023 minutes. **Unanimous. Motion carries.**
- III. Friends of KVR Update. Stiverson: served over 100 meals for Dam Challenge pasta supper - raised \$1,319. Three outgoing Board members, three new ones elected (Erin Stiverson, Harvey Potter and Margaret Farley).
- IV. Informational Items.
- Staffing update. Lind: Bader filling in for Cronk while she is on medical leave – training together now. Jim Sanford – LTE Laborer is now a dual LTE – second LTE appointment is Heavy Machine Operator. Lind is working on hiring another front desk LTE.
 - Biennial report. Lind: completed and submitted to the State by deadline; did not print hard copies this time.
 - 2023/204 Budget status. Lind: Cronk/Lind worked on this with input from Leis. Met with DOA budget analyst Chris Paul on final submission.
 - Dam Challenge 2023 Final Report. [review on screen]. Schultz: temperature was a little cool – river level was below average. 205 racers – 124 volunteers – registration fee \$65.00. Revenue: \$4,855 in sponsorships; \$19,000 + in registrations; approximately \$14,318.00 in overall revenue not including staff time. Maxwell: great event but need to keep in mind that we do not lose money when considering staff time. Post race survey sent out to racers – first time and past racers had mostly positive feedback.
 - Winter Festival – Set for Saturday, January 13, 2023. Yocum: put it on your calendar. Event will all be at one location (Visitor Center).
 - Pollinator Habitat Improvement Project Update. Leis: prepping sites – mowing and removing invasives. Had 24 volunteers from Westby Green Club collecting prairie seed off West Ridge Trail – collected large feed bag. Would like to seed some of the area with no till seeder we have. Lind: funding depends on availability of State funds for capital projects.
 - Camping – Year in review. [handout and review and screen]. Yocum: charges by site type – started using new system October 17th, 2022 – revenue is through today – broken down by site type - vehicle (16 sites), non-vehicle (6 sites), river (5 sites), special event (2 sites). Gives you an idea how the sites are used. Non-vehicle sites \$10/night; vehicle sites \$15/night; special event \$75/night. Occupancy – how did you hear about us – mostly by being a return guest or through family and friends, followed by Google search engine. Camping brought in 8,189 people in a year. Able to see how much money each site brought in, how many times each site was used and how many people were in each site. Campsite N most popular (used 159 nights), followed by campsite OO – least used site campsite E. Most people came from Wisconsin followed by Illinois and Minnesota.
- V. Education & Tourism Committee Report. Schultz: Committee met October 12, 2023. Had to cancel several school group visits due to lack of instructors. Talked about purchasing registration software for summer camp – Schultz presented two options – committee felt like updating KVR website was the best option – Schultz is looking into that.

- VI. Land Management Update. No committee meeting since last KRMB meeting. Next meeting November 7, 2023. Leis will see if UW-Madison Entomologist, Russell Groves is available to present at next KRMB meeting.
- VII. Finance Committee Update. No committee meeting since last KRMB meeting. Next Finance Committee meeting November 13, 2023 at 9am.
- VIII. Enforcement Update. Leis: enforcement/property has been busy but no major issues – a lot of people and hunters using the property this fall. Releasing pheasants again this fall. Campsites have been full most weekends. Bow deer season ramping up – more hunters on the property each day. Hope to have coverage every day during gun deer season. Lind: did Dairyland power repair the damage they did to trail. Leis: had them go back on the day it was damaged and try to smooth out ruts – have not been back besides that – said they would be willing to come back and put some seed down.
- IX. Other issues.
- Board member matters or requests for future agenda topics.
 - Hoel: reminder of Maxwell’s comment from last meeting about moving time of KRMB meetings earlier than 7pm. Downing: 5:30pm start time would work great. Lind will add as a decision item to next month’s agenda.
- X. Hoel/Downing Motion to convene in closed session for the following purposes:
1) Pursuant to s. 19.185(1)(c) of Wisconsin State Statutes: *Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility*. Purpose: To consider employment of KVR Executive Director.
- Meeting adjourned into closed session 7:38 PM.
- XI. Next KRMB meeting November 16, 2023.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk