

MINUTES  
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER - DECK  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

- I. 6:30 PM Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Richard Wallin.
- Board members in attendance: Richard Wallin, Paul Hayes, Reggie Nelson, Susan Cushing, Dave Maxwell, Travis Downing, A.J. Mann, Julie Hoel, Tina Brown; Via phone: Bill Quackenbush. Staff present: Marcy West, Jason Leis, Jonel Kiesau, Erica Cronk. Public: Jean Beck, Local citizen; Lonnie Muller, Episcopse News; Barbara and Gordon Cunningham, neighboring landowners.
  - Motion by Downing/Brown to approve the agenda with change of moving Wild Rose Day expansion permit and upcoming hearing from the fifth to the second item on the agenda. Unanimous.
  - Cushing/Hoel motion to approve July 16, 2020 minutes. Motion carries.
  - Compliance with open meeting law: West – Yes, it has been posted in compliance with State law.
  - Introductions of KRMB, staff and audience.
- II. Wild Rose Dairy expansion permit and upcoming hearing. Local citizen Jean Beck began discussion supporting Cushing and Land Management Committee letter of concern that was sent to Department of Natural Resources (DNR); confirmed as received by DNR and will take under consideration as they go through the permit process. Wallin read letter from neighboring landowners Joan and Kurt Peterson voicing their concern as well. Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) Staff also received letters of concern from neighboring landowners Mark Katz and Janet Kruk and Tom Lukens, local citizen. Neighboring landowners Barbara and Gordon Cunningham shared their concern living downstream from the proposed expansion and the effects it will have on everyone below them. Concern of further drawing down of water table. Hayes questioned state agency objecting to another state agency. West will ask state attorney if there is a conflict. Hoel: important to be on the record opposing this from the beginning. Downing: need to protect our water sources. Quackenbush shared DNR will look at direct and indirect effects. Cumulative effect needs to be taken into consideration. Cushing/Downing motion to resubmit letter of concern on behalf of full KRMB with the addition of the cumulative effect language Quackenbush will draft. Motion carries.
- III. Election of Officers: West requests nomination for Chair. Maxwell/Mann nominate Dick Wallin for Chair; three requests. Unanimous election of Wallin for Chair. Wallin requests nominations for Vice Chair. Hayes/Wallin nominate Cushing for Vice Chair. Unanimous election of Cushing for Vice Chair. Wallin request nominations for Secretary. Cushing/Brown nominate Travis Downing for Secretary. Unanimous election of Downing for Secretary. Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary terms are for one year.
- IV. Budget Report -
- West - [handout]. Review FY20 Year End report. DOA transferred between accounts and brought 12200, 12400 and 16100 accounts down to zero balance with a small carryover, approximately \$7,700 in the 12100 appropriation.
  - Summer Revenue snapshot [handout]. Revenue breakdown for May – August 2020 user fees; includes parking, day permits, annuals, and camping. No camping revenue in May due to sites closed from COVID-19 pandemic; campsites reopened in June. Saw a twenty six percent increase in annual passes so far in 2020. Property has been extremely busy.
  - Exhibit Upgrade campaign status. Campaign has raised over \$212,000.00 in donations and pledges. Fundraising efforts have resumed after temporarily paused due to pandemic. Please pass along anyone that may be interested in contributing. Target goal is \$600,000.00+. An architect/engineer has been assigned via Department of Facilities Development. More details to come in October.
- V. Education Program: Hoel update - a few KVR instructors created adventure day packs for families to check out outside the Visitor Center; packs have been getting used and going well. The Learning

Outdoors blog continues weekly and shared on Facebook. Forest Charter School planning is well underway – looking at building needs for new school and other visiting school groups as well as other KVR events and programs. Building Committee will continue to assess and justify needs. Kiesau provide Forest School overview: La Farge School awarded \$700,000.00 five-year grant from Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Thirty to thirty-two students in first year; additional fifteen or sixteen students in year two and additional fifteen or sixteen students in year three with max. sixty-four students at capacity. Students attending five days a week; one teacher and one aid per grade level – eight permanent employees. Kickapoo Valley Forest School now has its own Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter account; a website was designed and will be ready to launch next week, siloed within La Farge School District website but with its own IP address. Outreach and enrollment outreach start next week with virtual roundtables as well as in person events at KVR; self-served and distanced. Kiesau will continue discussion with KRMB and update along the way as Forest School progresses.

VI. Land Management: Update: Wallin – committee met August 11, 2020

- Monroe County Flood Resiliency Project. Request to donate funds to flood monitoring equipment at the headwaters of the Kickapoo River. Equipment would allow for emergency alerts on the river in real time. Total project cost over \$100,000.00. Committee voted to donate \$1,000.00 Kickapoo Valley Association in support of project.
- Trail, Forestry and Enforcement: Leis Update - South half of Hay Valley Trail closed due to bridge out. Looking at long term solution for this trail section. Proposed 120-foot boardwalk, like Cut-Off Trail. Cost for boardwalk and lumber roughly \$23,000.00 in addition to labor costs. Land Management recommends leaving trail closed for remainder of 2020 and fundraising for trail repair. Possible funding sources being Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve monies specifically set aside for trails and the Wisconsin Horse Council via a grant application. Forestry update: Contracted forester, Thomas Wyse, announced timber sale – out for bid. Leis/Wyse working on getting loggers to repair damage near Haugh Road and other areas damaged by their logging operations. Leis and Mann surveyed pine plantation off County Road P-West; will try and get burned yet this fall with help of Ho-Chunk Nation. Enforcement update: looking to hire couple new officers; potential new hire that West/Leis interviewed this week. New enforcement truck was picked up last week and old one returned to Madison. Leis working to switch over equipment in the coming week.

VII. Other issues:

- Board member vacancy – local resident. Candidate needs to reside locally (Village of Ontario or La Farge, Township of Stark, Whitestown, Forest and/or School District of Brookwood, La Farge).
  - Upcoming events: West – Driftless Dialogue lecture series kicking back off this Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> with a Copper Bullet talk and demo. Talks continue the next five Saturdays with next presenter and topic Randy Jackson from UW-Madison Dept. of Agronomy discussing managed grazing improving water quality. All talks will be outdoors with a limited number of people. Each talk will be recorded and air on the local community channel as well as uploaded to the KVR website.
- Calls for Suggestions of Future Agenda Items – none.
  - Next KRMB meeting October 15, 2020 at 6:30pm if needed.  
Brown/Hoel motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned 8:10PM.

Recorded by:  
Erica Cronk, Executive Assistant