

Kickapoo Reserve Management Board
Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2024
Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

In Person Attendance: Scott Lind, Julie Hoel, Travis Downing, Kjetil Garvin, Barb Sarnowski

On Zoom Attendance: Joel Charles, Reggie Nelson, AJ Mann, Bill Quackenbush

Staff in Person: Jason Leis, Jackie Yocum

Audience: Margaret Farley

I. Open Session – Call to Order 6pm by Chair Travis Downing: 6pm

Approval of Agenda -**Hoel: Request to add update on contract with KVFS. Motion by Sarnowski, 2nd by Lind; All in favor – motion carries.**

Land Acknowledgement Statement – Read by Downing

Public Posting Compliance – Leis: It was publicly posted as required.

Public Input: No requests.

II. Consent Agenda

Minutes from June 27th meeting

Motion to accept minutes as written by Hoel, 2nd by Garvin; All in favor - motion carries.

III. Decision Items

1. 25 Years of KVR – Ceremony to commemorate 25 years

Discussion: Original dedication ceremony in May of 2001. KVR officially transferred from Federal to State of Wisconsin and Ho-Chunk Nation December of 2000. Looking to put together a program commemorating 25 years. Inviting past staff, KRMB members, original people who helped with the project of creating the KVR. Looking for KRMB approval to put together a program on Saturday, June 7, 2025. Year 2025 will highlight the history of the Reserve, including Driftless Dialogues and programs. Form a committee of 4 KRMB members, Hoel and Garvin interested in being on the committee. *Jason to send an email to other KRMB members looking for 2 more members to be on the committee.*

Motion in favor of a Kickapoo Valley Reserve 25th anniversary ceremony and start a committee of KRMB members for the event by Lind, 2nd by Sarnowski; All in favor – motion carries.

IV. Discussion Items

1. KVFS Contract Status (item added at Hoel request during Approval of Agenda). KRMB approved contract with changes brought at June meeting. Contract has not been signed yet. Changes from KRMB meeting have been made. Leis working with M. Gustafson on getting contract finalized and signed.

2. Update on tree planting. 7 more oak trees have been planted on the property. Project going well. Hope to plant Hanson Rock trees in the fall after crops come off.
3. Pollinator Paragon outside the lobby windows mirrors the pollinator work being done on the property. Educational display up and functioning for visitors. Project funded by Friends of KVR.
4. Update on bike repair station. Identified type of bike repair station and location for unit near the outdoor restrooms at the Visitor Center garage, under cover.
5. Land trade progress – Lisney Road. Ok from state attorney to get property assessed. Assessor has been hired for \$1000 total, \$500 each parcel. KVR to pay half.
6. Staffing Update: Education Coordinator has resigned; position is now posted. Interviews will be scheduled after the application deadline. Executive Assistant is posted, and interviews will be scheduled after application deadline. Property Manager position is moving forward through HR with position description. Interviews scheduled for Field Crew/Laborer position to continue invasive and field work through fall and winter. Lind: Will there be a long-term budget impact for not being fully staffed? Leis: Should not be an issue according to DOA because there are placeholders for vacant positions.

V. Education and Tourism – Sarnowski updated; discussed Nuzum Grant application. Continuing Driftless Dialogue plans. Summer Camp update, fewer offerings but better attended. Tourism update, Sarnowski; Dam Challenge plans moving along. Campsites being used consistently. Cleaning fees are effective in dealing with sites left in disarray. Discussed KVR 25th Anniversary programs and events. Next meeting: October 10, 2024, 5:30pm

VI. Finance Committee – No meeting to report. Leis has been working on biennial budget and state fiscal personnel. Leis has been in contact with Building Commission and will take any issues KRMB wants to address to that committee. Will work with Lind. Next meeting Sept. 9, 2024, 9am

VII. Land Management Committee – No meeting to report. Next Meeting is Sept. 10, 2024, 5:30pm

VIII. Other Issues – Downing: heard positive comments from canoeists as to how good and clean the Kickapoo River is within the KVR.

XI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Lind, 2nd Sarnowski. All in favor; motion carries

Minutes transcribed by J. Yocum 9/19/24