

**Kickapoo Reserve Management Board  
Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2025**  
Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

**Board members present:** Travis Downing (Chair), Kjetil Garvin (via Zoom), Reggie Nelson, Kelly Rueckheim, Barb Sarnowski, Damian Thundercloud (via Zoom), Lyndsey Winchel, Luke Zahm

**Board members absent:** Scott Lind, Bill Quackenbush

**Staff members present:** Jason Leis, Amy Dvorak, Jackie Yocum, Jesse Haney, Amber Burch

**Others in attendance:** Lonnie Muller (Episcope), Chris Malanka (via Zoom), Jody Rader (via Zoom)

Chair Downing called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM.

Downing read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Sarnowski made a motion to approve the agenda. Rueckheim seconded the motion. The motion passed with all ayes.

Leis confirmed the agenda was properly posted.

Zahm motioned to approve the minutes from the September 2025 meeting, and Sarnowski seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.

**Chairperson and/or Executive Director report:**

Downing did not have a report.

Leis thanked staff and volunteers for their hard work on the Dam Challenge Triathlon as well as the sponsors. There were about 210 racers registered.

Leis discussed the proposed 765 kV transmission line. He encouraged residents to go to meetings and speak up if they are opposed to the project or would like more information. At the next Land Management Committee meeting, they will discuss the project and will likely come to the next board meeting with a recommendation.

**Budget Report:**

In September, employees with the Wisconsin Department of Administration Bureau of Financial Management attended the Finance Committee meeting and presented on the KVR budget. Leis reviewed the KRMB appropriations.

Leis shared and explained the FY2026 KRMB Appropriation Budget as of October 6, 2025. Appropriation 12100 received about \$44,500 less in FY26 and FY27 due to vacant positions at the KVR last year.

The FY2026 KRMB Revenue and Expense Summary from October 8, 2025 was shared on the screen.

**Friends of KVR Update:**

Jody Rader provided an update. The FKVR are in the last stages of updating their website with hopes to launch it in November. The URL will remain the same. The Pasta Supper was on October 3, 2025. About 105 people were served, and they raised about \$1,600.

The photo contest is currently underway. Chosen photos will be on display at the Visitor Center for voting in November. Winners will be announced at Holiday Happening, which is on December 6, 2025.

The Education Building CD was cashed out. A little over \$15,000 was paid out to the Kickapoo Valley Forest School Governance Council and about \$2,000 to the KVR Education Fund per the instruction of the donors.

The next meeting is October 21, 2025, which is also the annual meeting and election.

**Public appearances:**

None.

**Rock climbing policy:**

The current draft policy was shown on the screen. A discussion ensued. The policy was amended slightly to read "...with or without the assistance of..." instead of "...usually with the assistance of..."

Sarnowski made a motion to approve the policy with the edits. The motion was seconded by Winchel and passed unanimously with all ayes.

**Education Management Plan to Board for review:**

Sarnowski presented the three-page FY26 to FY30 Education Management Plan to the board. Downing made a motion and Zahm seconded to approve the Education Management Plan as written. The motion passed with all ayes.

**Education and Tourism Committee:**

The Wednesday Nature Bound program is going well. More school districts are inquiring about coming for day programs. Driftless Dialogue is scheduled monthly through January.

Sarnowski requested the board's vote on increasing the summer camp fees by 10% rounding down to the nearest \$5 based on reviews of other summer camp costs and our revenue. The costs of supplies and instructors currently exceed the revenue. Downing said other committees will come to the board with fee recommendations at the November board meeting. He asked if this fee increase could be discussed then. Sarnowski said yes. The committee also recommends an increase in day programming fees.

The river has been low this year. Campsites are full. There is a lot of hunting on the KVR. Trails will close on November 15, 2025 to horses and bikes. The Dam Challenge is very well run. Winter Festival will be January 10, 2026.

The next Education and Tourism Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

**Finance Committee:**

The committee recommends day use fees stay the same. Annual passes would include a checkbox for an incremental \$10 fee for cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The reason is those users have specific accommodations that need to be met to keep the trails operating and working smoothly. Campsite fees should increase by \$5 per site type. The committee is looking at the commercial use fees and are gathering comparisons to other agencies for similar fees.

The committee strongly opposes the proposed 765 kV transmission line through the KVR. If needed, we would advocate for the creation of a resolution statement in conjunction with the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

**Land Management Committee:**

Rob Danielson gave a presentation on the proposed 765 kV transmission line and shared a draft information request resolution, which the committee is reviewing.

Beth Summers presented the breeding bird data from 2025.

The next Land Management Committee meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

**Board Member Matters:**

None.

**Request for future agenda topics:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Zahm made a motion and Nelson seconded to adjourn the meeting. It passed with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center.

Minutes transcribed by Amy Dvorak, Executive Assistant