

Kickapoo Reserve Management Board

March 21, 2024

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

In Person Attendance: Reggie Nelson, Travis Downing, Barb Sarnowski, Joel Charles, Scott Lind

On Zoom Attendance: Dave Maxwell, Julie Hoel, Adali Mann, Bill Quackenbush

Staff in Person: Jason Leis, Maggie Schultz, Jackie Yocum

Staff on zoom: Marcia Bader

Audience: 1 total in person, 0 on zoom

I. Open Session – Call to Order 6:00pm (by Downing)

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve agenda by Maxwell, 2nd by Sarnowski

All in favor - Motion carries.

Land Acknowledgement Statement – read by Downing

Public Posting Compliance – Yes, Leis

Public Input: None

II. Consent Agenda

February 2024 minutes

Motion to approve February minutes as submitted by Hoel, 2nd Nelson

All in favor – Motion carries.

III. Decision Items

1. Access Ability Wisconsin: proposal to apply for agreement; KVR to serve as host site for a tracked wheelchair for AAW.
 - a. Leis: Jackie has presented proposal to all committees, and contacted other businesses that have entered similar agreements, as well as speaking with AAW earlier today. Yocum: the other host sites had mixed reviews. The chair is great, but the AAW administration policies and procedures can be difficult. Spoke with AAW about concerns. AAW going to reorganization, hopefully to deal with issues of concern. Everyone spoken to was happy with chair performance and usefulness. Downing: It will be useful to several people and will increase access, it is a good thing. Hoel: How will this be paid for? Yocum: The chair and trailer will be owned by AAW, out of AAW, we are only the host site. No cost to us, aside from staff time for minor maintenance (cleaning, making sure it works, etc.) Hoel: How will people get the chair? Yocum: all requests are through AAW. We will have 2-3 staff go through training to show people how to use the chair when they pick it up. Hoel: If someone wants to use chair at Wildcat, can they? Yocum: yes, once they check out the chair (and trailer) they can take it anywhere, including private property.

Motion to move forward with AAW partnership as proposed; Motion by Hoel,

2nd by Sarnowski

All in favor – motion carries

2. Wisconet: Recommendation from Land Management to approve a weather station at the Visitor Center, north of the parking lot on the north edge of the flat area.
 - a. Downing: Wisconet is asking to place weather station (picture on screen). They have 13 other stations, none in this area. Leis: USGS and local weather stations will use the data to make forecasts, and data also used for agriculture, soil probes at various depths report temperature and moisture data every five minutes. Data used for crop insurance, for example if a drought occurs. 12ft high tripod, solar panel to provide power, not hooked up to power. Looked at three locations, this location is best due to elevation and lack of disturbance to soil (as compared to other locations, near maintenance building) Charles: Do we mow there? Leis: No, and we won't be required to mow. They will do any weed-whacking or other maintenance. Do not want us to mow, to reduce chance of disturbing equipment. Nelson: Will data be available to the public? Leis: Yes, online. Nelson: Can we put data on our website? Leis: Yes, we will most likely transition from our current weather station, will be more accurate and detailed. Can also use soil moisture to help make trail opening and closing decisions. Hoel: Will it be in the middle of the field? Leis: no, at the north edge. Lind: Is there a contract, or terms? Leis: No, they are just asking permission. We are not liable. Staff may be asked to do quick checks in the event the equipment is not working properly, but they will do any maintenance or repairs. Several other stations being put in, none in this area. Are there issues with this being an eyesore? Hoel: Looks like science. Lind: It is an eyesore, but valuable. Other locations? Downing: Land management recommends putting it here because there is already other buildings/equipment, it won't stand out as much.

Motion to approve Wisconet Weather Station as proposed.

Motion by Hoel, 2nd by Charles

All in favor – Motion carries.

3. Review of Police Policies
 - a. Leis: If you have any questions, just good to have board approval. May change a word here or there but want to get an ok from board. Charles: Is this the first time having policies? Leis: We have had policies, first time requesting board approval. Hired a company to help with updates, they require approval by governing body. Will be a good thing to have board approval going forward.
 - b. Motion to approve Police Policies as submitted: Downing. 2nd by Hoel**
 - c. Discussion: Maxwell: Found some minor edits: 202.1, 2nd line – two words running together (on screen); 202.4, 2nd paragraph – doesn't make sense. Leis: needs a 'to' after deputy directo. Maxwell: 200.3 and 200.3.1 – redundant. These can be looked at later. Leis: A lot of this is boiler plate, just needs to be filled in with relevant terms to our organization, these details get missed.
 - d. Motion to approve with edits from Maxwell: Hoel. 2nd by Downing**
 - e. All in favor – Motion carries.**

IV. Friends of KVR update –

Margaret Farley: Earth Day poetry contest open. Earth week road cleanup – 1st Saturday (4/20) at 10am, rain date following Saturday (4/27). Safety yellow vests provided. Other events discussed, no decision items. Harvey Potter to purchase a laptop and look into bonding.

V. Education and Tourism Committee Update – Next meeting April 11, 2024

1. Yocum: Earth Day -focused on stewardship activities, April 20-27:
 - Garlic Mustard Gathering
 - Annual Roadside Cleanup
 - School groups to be invited, along with volunteers for both
 - Saturday, April 20 events:
 - Youth poetry reading, zero waste potluck, froggy starry walk, possible telescope with sips and stars, sponsored by FKVR
 - Saturday, April 27 event
 - Driftless Dialogue on Jumping worms to wrap up earth week.
2. Creative Communities: Canvases are up; Nocturnal theme. Auction closes 3/24 at 5pm. Auction through Bidding Owl, great customer service. Process come to us through Friends for education and events.
3. Schultz: Summer camp registration continues, 6 camps full, about half full. Starting to promote more to continue filling camps.
4. Yocum: Backcountry Basics, a new adult summer camp program. Will focus on outdoor skills (navigation, camping, etc.). Donation will fund pilot, will focus on safety along with many other related skills. Possibility to expand into series. Will be June 21-23, 2024. Schultz: Designed to make people more comfortable in the outdoors, increase accessibility. Registration to open soon.
5. Yocum: Dam Challenge registration to open early. Usually opens July 1, but staff has decided to move up to increase sign ups. Hopefully to open next week. Will lessen the load in the fall. Schultz: will also help us get sponsorship dollars that we missed out on last year. Date will be Oct. 5th.

VI. Finance Committee-

1. Leis: meeting was scheduled for March 11, no board members present, meeting was canceled. Next meeting April 8, 2024

VII. Land Management Committee – Next meeting May 14, 2024

1. Downing: Pollinator Project seeds ordered, \$900/acre for 10 acres this year. Tree sponsorships – have planted six trees along old 131 trail. More trees to go there and the six acres on Hanson Rock. Have collected \$12,018 in donations. Trees are expensive, so a good amount of donations. Land trade – no progress; details are with attorney. Native plants for pollinators – representation by the deck. Will put same plants as the pollinator habitat, then put an informational kiosk inside the lobby. Leis: Plants will be put in first, then the kiosk to inform guests on what the plants are and what pollinators they benefit. Conferred with Ho Chunk nation, we will have the same plants, but we will have more diversity. They are planting 150 acres, went with a lower cost seed mix. Want to burn off the fields before

planting. Locations are at bottom of mule trail and by Winchell road. That will be the first 10 acres. Downing: discussed the request to widen shoulder on Hwy 131 between La Farge and Rockton. Money will have to come from somewhere, \$20,000-\$30,000 per mile needed. Will work with Town of Stark and La Farge to start. Lind: Widening the shoulder, or increasing paved area? Downing: Increasing the amount of shoulder that's paved. Will be like a bike lane. It's wide enough, just gravel right now. Charles: Distance? Leis: 4.5 miles, will add an extra 2 ft of pavement outside of white lines. DOT quoted us price. Charles: This is in addition to work they are already doing? Downing: Yes, and it will never be cheaper because they will already be there working. Charles: Would the state pay? Downing: The Town of Stark and La Farge both want this done, so they will help. We will also find grants and get other support. Leis: Traffic monitors don't justify it being wider by federal standards, but there are grants and other supports. Looking at trail grants, it may be used by trail users. Sarnowski: It would also create more room for amish buggies. Charles: I see the value. Downing: We are not intending to pay for it, but are offering to support the efforts of Stark and La Farge. Lind: I'm not ok with widening the right-of-way, but this is just widening the pavement. Sarnowski: Will make it safer. Hoel: Use Friends money to help leverage grants? Charles: this will be over \$100,000. Hoel: We have some resources to put towards a worth project. Sarnowski: What year will this be done? Lind: '26, I believe. Leis: Yes, DOT says 2026 for project. Farley: Bulk of Friends' money is in CD, unusable.

VIII. Law Enforcement Update

1. Leis: Looking into getting new camera system (1 vehicle camera, 3 body cameras). Will be 5 year deal, about \$3,000/year. Just signed off on contract, cameras will be here in 1-3 months. Old system already obsolete, no one will service it. New system will be the same that state patrol and DNR use. Lind: cost of old system? Leis: Purchased outright, was economical, now we have storage issues; videos must be kept, and then deleted after 180 days. New system will automatically delete videos after 180 days, unless flagged by officers. Will include redaction software to edit video for court/other purposes, ability we did not have before. Overall, is a better system. New cameras every 4 years included, and serviced as needed. Obtained Narcan nasal spray today, treatment for opioid overdose. Works quickly, and is not harmful if used on someone not having an opioid overdose. Charles: If you're thinking about using it, use it. Leis: Exactly. Will be kept in enforcement truck. Already have a policy, officers already trained.

IX. Other Issues/Future Agenda Items: None.

Motion to adjourn by Nelson 2nd by Downing
All in favor, motion carries. 6:47pm

Minutes recorded by M. Schultz 3/29/24