

MINUTES  
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER  
August 26, 2021

- I. 7:05 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Richard Wallin.
- Board members in attendance via Zoom: Richard Wallin, Susan Cushing, Scott Lind, Reggie Nelson, Bill Quackenbush, Julie Hoel, Luke Zahm. Staff: Scott Walter, Jason Leis, Erica Cronk, Jackie Yocum, Robin Hosemann. Audience: Meaghan Gustafson, La Farge Superintendent; Shawna Nelson, Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS) Governance Council; Lonnie Muller, Episcopo News; Bonnie Rae Sherman, Epitaph Newspaper.
  - Motion by Hoel/Zahm to approve the agenda with addition of Letter of Support discussion on county wide record system under the *Other Issues* section on agenda. Unanimous.
  - Compliance with open meeting law: Walter -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
  - Quackenbush/Lind motion to approve July 15, 2021 minutes. Motion carries.
  - Public Input: None.
- II. Election of Officers: Walter requests nomination for Chair. Cushing/Hoel nominate Dick Wallin for Chair; three requests. Unanimous election of Wallin for Chair. Wallin requests nominations for Vice Chair. Hoel/Wallin nominate Cushing for Vice Chair. Unanimous election of Cushing for Vice Chair. Wallin request nominations for Secretary. Cushing/Hoel nominate Travis Downing for Secretary. Unanimous election of Downing for Secretary. Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary terms are for one year.
- III. Budget Report:
- Walter – [handout]. Review FY21 KRMB year-end budget report; FY21 ended June 30, 2021. Any remaining balance in 12100 revenue appropriation carries over to FY22. Beginning FY22 with healthy balance in 12100; increased rec revenue big factor. Noted significant deficient in Education program due to COVID. 12200 Gifts & Grants appropriation also carries over; healthy carry-over into FY22. 12400 Law Enforcement appropriation closed out with all expenses covered; returned a small surplus balance to gaming account. 16100 base allocation appropriation ended FY21 with zero-dollar balance. DOA accounting reallocated eligible expenses into 12100 appropriation.
- IV. Education Program Update:
- Walter – [review Facilities Use Agreement]. Agreement ties the Reserve with La Farge school district in terms of processes and costs. Itemized costs used to compute per pupil fee. Cost neutral agreement. Will document actual costs and staff time incurred during this first year. Agreement is for one year. Will revise agreement after year one as need be. Kiesau incorporated comments from KRMB and staff. Governance Council approved Hoel/Nelson to accept the agreement at KRMB meeting. Hoel/Zahm motion to approve agreement between Governance Council and KRMB. Motion carries.
  - Lind update: Prairie Springs Classroom progress - Ethos Green Power out today and installed underground electrical and fiber optic. Close to figuring out HVAC system; otherwise in great shape. Need to cut hole on west side of building for HVAC install, then finish siding on that side. Ready for insulation; dry wall contractor lined up, too. As of today, 1450 hours of donated labor by 39 people. Special recognition to Lind for his outstanding work on this. Hoel: All local pledges made when project initiated have been fulfilled; finances are in place. Lind confirmed still under budget.
  - KVFS Open House: Hosemann – majority of families came out 4:30-6pm August 26th for Open House and orientation. Lotus bell tent in place on west side of Visitor Center building. Classroom space at Visitor Center ready to go. KVFS Staff participated in In-Service training this week. Really excited to welcome families next week. Map created to help with ease of using the property. Tiny house office space arrived and in place next to garage. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers that helped make this possible.
- V. Land Management Update: Committee last met August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Ag Lease discussion: Wallin - in final year of six-year ag lease agreement; due to be re-bid. Discussion to consider banning Neonicotinoid treated seeds; also consider converting all acreage to Organic farming only. Walter: Neonicotinoid impact on pollinators and other insects; DNR banned use of Neonicotinoid treated seeds on DNR lands. Fish and Wildlife Service - ban in place for years. Our mission of preserve and protect – we need to take this issue into consideration. State Attorney confirmed KRMB has authority to lease lands in whatever terms KRMB deems is best. Consider extending current lease holders lease for one year; will give time to dive into this discussion more. Quackenbush: look into what other regions are doing; keep this discussion going – headed in the right direction. Introduce into discussion other potential plant opportunities. Zahm: protect areas that are environmentally sensitive buffer zones (i.e. riverbanks). Wallin: check with current lease holders and gauge interest in extending lease one year. Discussion will continue at Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Land Management Committee meeting. Lind/Zahm: need more time to consider all options.

- Drone use policy discussion: Walter – [review draft policy]. Issue that came up at Land Management Committee meeting. Federal law supersedes regulating air space. Courts look very skeptically at local efforts to regulate drone usage. Wisconsin enacted legislation that limits drone usage on a handful of State lands. KB 103(1)(d) – Admin code that sets KVR enforceable rules and policies; drone use excluded as allowable activity. Leis: administrative rules need to go through legislature. Walter will clarify steps needed to adopt new rule. Lind: support for making this most restrictive use possible. Quackenbush modify motion to recommend policy with inclusion of fourth bullet point in which drone use permitted for resource management use by KVR and Ho-Chunk Nation staff via approval of Executive Director and Heritage Preservation Executive Director or Ho-Chunk Director of Natural Resources; Ho-Chunk Rep. only signature needed if drone use on tribal lands, if State land, KVR Executive Director only signature needed. Unanimous consent adopting drone use policy.
- Forest Management Plan and understanding role of disturbance in forest ecosystems: Walter – had an opportunity to tour property in depth; nearly 6,000 acres of forest. How it is managed or not has significant impacts on ecological value, long term diversity and ability to support our mission of preserve and protect. Johnston began forest management plan a few years back; Walter would like to pick back up. Work with KRMB to develop management plan in line with our mission and diverse views of what a healthy forest should look like and what our long-term goals are; these discussions are critically important. Walter requests to work with staff and partners to develop forestry management plan. Walter wants to engage KRMB later this fall or winter to discuss forest management from an ecological sense with respects to forest diversity. Cushing: needs Ho-Chunk involvement and input in an active way. Zahm: consider how do we best support the forest. Walter will put big picture presentation together and bring back to future KRMB meeting.
- Hay Valley Boardwalk PowerPoint presentation[reviewed on screen]: Yocum – project completed and trail open; trail closed approximately three years. Transported sections of boardwalk across river below site W; hauled 250 yards up valley to worksite. Leis: frames and rubber tread surface have 40-year guarantee. Built connection trail on north and south side of boardwalk. Old bridge completely removed. Hay Valley trail approximately four miles long, two bridges, three stream fords and a boardwalk. Leis: big thanks to Ho-Chunk crew; instrumental in getting this project completed. Zahm: huge thanks to Leis and Yocum and crew. Hoel: boardwalk is lovely addition. Walter: echoes many thanks. Lind: this should be included on website for users to see. Yocum: yes, staff will add to website.

#### VI. Other issues:

- Walter – open invitation for KRMB members to spend some time with staff job-shadowing.
- Board member preference for future KRMB meetings given current COVID guidance: Walter – current guidelines does allow in-person meetings; we can meet on deck. New AV equipment on its way for use in meeting room; should be in place by September or October KRMB meeting. Consensus to meet in-person, on deck if possible.
- Board agenda format options: Walter – with regards to agenda consider a different format that breaks down KRMB expectations into consent, action, and informational agenda.
- Calls for Suggestions of Future Agenda Items – Wallin: will include Forest Management presentation in next couple months; Hoel: Land Acknowledgement Statement is still getting worked on and will be included on future agenda at some point; Walter: Kiesau offered to present on summer camp wrap-up.
- County wide records system: Leis – Sheriff's dept. met with local law enforcement officials; agreed County needs a new system for documenting records, traffic stops, etc... Currently not a good way of sharing information between officers; different departments use different systems. Proposing new record system for County and would like other villages and cities to get on board with same system. System will provide officer safety but comes at a cost. County needs everyone to buy in to make this possible. Sheriff Dept. requested Leis ask KRMB write a letter of support/recommendation to Vernon County Board to request they approve use of the Ho-Chunk Nation funds paid to Vernon County annually, to pay for the implementation and first year use of the program. System would benefit all communities within the county. Cushing: would like to know how KRMB will pay for program after first year. Lind/Zahm motion to adopt letter of support. Unanimous.

#### VII. Next KRMB meeting September 16, 2021. Maxwell/Downing motion to adjourn; motion carries. Meeting adjourned 9:25PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk