

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
May 18, 2023

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Scott Lind. Maxwell: Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- Board members in attendance: Travis Downing, Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, AJ Mann, Dave Maxwell, Reggie Nelson, Barb Sarnowski. Via Zoom: Tina Brown. Absent: Bill Quackenbush, Luke Zahm. Staff in-person: Erica Cronk, Lynn Kronschnabel, Jason Leis, Christian Malanka, Jackie Yocum. Via Zoom: Maggie Manke. Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcopo News; Beth Unger, Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve (FKVR) board member, Jonel Kiesau, David Jablonowski, and one other. Via Zoom: Marcia Bader, FKVR Treasurer, Robin Hosemann, Jen Oium.
 - Motion by Hoel/Sarnowski to approve the agenda. Unanimous. Motion carries.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Kronschnabel -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input: none.
- II. Brown/Downing motion to approve the April 20, 2023 minutes with correction of listing Dave Maxwell as Board member in attendance. Minutes approved as amended. Motion carries.
- III. Friends of KVR Update. Unger: did roadside clean-up over two weekends – brainstorming ways to recruit more volunteers - thanks to all who helped. June 9th Friends will host volunteer appreciation at La Farge Park from 4-6pm. Busy working on upcoming Garden Walk – planned for some time in July – good fundraiser. Staff appreciation and meal will be held August 23rd.
- IV. Informational Items.
- Groomer purchase [picture on screen]. Kronschnabel: last week purchased a groomer (Tidd Tech) from Wisconsin Surplus site to be used on KVR cross-country ski trails – Wisconsin made unit. Groomer previously owned by Marathon County Parks – 6-year-old equipment – in great condition. Original bid received for \$11,300 – ended up purchasing for \$4,800 plus fees for a total of \$5,100. Two track setters – balanced for weight – 200lbs pressure to set track – ideally for lower snow conditions – entire unit weighs 380lbs. Next will work on upgrading UTV – group of skiers to help fundraise for equipment.
 - Education Update: Lynn and Maggie visit to Ho-Chunk offices. Manke: May 11th Manke and Kronschnabel travelled to meet with Quackenbush at this office in Tomah and then to Black River Falls to meet with Brown. Purpose was to discuss bringing more Ho-Chunk opportunities into our educational programming. Productive discussion – talked about Quackenbush doing an upcoming Driftless Dialogue talk – offering camps for Ho-Chunk youth at KVR. A few other ideas in the works – continue to work together to offer more diverse offerings in education programming.
 - Chainsaw classes. Leis: Driftless Folk School putting on the classes – teacher is Luke Saunders – first class was on May 10th (level 1) – cutting portion over by Willow Camp – area marked for timber stand improvement. Saunders will also be marking trees off West Ridge trail. Another level 1 class is being offered on May 20th. Level 2, 3, and 4 will also be offered on later dates. Lind: chainsaw certifications are lifelong.
 - KRMB Nomination Update. Kronschnabel: Three people have expressed interest and applied - in process - up to Governor's office.
 - Visitor numbers, room rentals, passes [pdf on screen]. Cronk: review meeting room rentals so far in 2023. Lots of people using the facility – KVR programs/events, numerous public rentals, committee meetings, Friends board meetings, and more. The number of visitors coming inside the visitor center nearly 4,000 not including events and school groups as well as users that are on the property but do not come inside. To date, have issued 926 annual passes including 340 Friends members – compared to 2022, 983 annual passes including 359 Friends members.
 - Camping update. Yocum: new system rolling along – growing pains – second cycle of people experiencing system – first was the hunters last fall – proving to be challenging for some – people not looking before they come and unaware of the change. System allows for running numerous reports – year to date \$9,611 in campsite revenue – all sites used at least once except X. Also, can tell how many people are at each site.

- River update. Leis: crew opened up log jam upstream from Bridge 8 – narrow 7-foot passage on left side – will need to remove it entirely though. Next spot opened up was right at Bridge 8. Another one by old Bridge 17 – large tree tipped over in river – took new tractor and winch and cleared. Larger tractor with more horsepower helped. Leis also met with canoe liveries today. Reported tight spot between Wildcat Park and Bridge 4. The river is open from Ontario to La Farge. Finished installing planks at Bridge 18 this week [picture on screen]. Put seed and mulch down – people already using new landing.
 - Pollinator habitat. Leis: Ho-Chunk did not receive pollinator habitat grant applied for however KVR potentially still interested in pursuing 60 acres of State-owned land that was identified as part of that grant. Land Management recommends identifying priority spots near Ho-Chunk portion – start out with 10-15 acres - cost \$1,000/acre. Ho-Chunk still pursuing their portion as well. Brandon Bluer, Ho-Chunk Forester coming Thursday, May 24th – will give recommendations - looking at 6-acre field up by Hanson Rock – prefer oak tree plantings. Yocum: Manke & Yocum working on pollinator habitat. Received 300 nursery raised milkweed plants (common and swamp) as part of grant, only paid shipping. Field crew/Manke built butterfly enclosure [pic on screen]. Plan to collect eggs/caterpillars and put them in enclosure – then releasing monarchs.
 - Chuck Hatfield Reserve photo. Kronschnabel: Hatfield gave a large aerial photo from 1960's (pre-Army Corp) to Kronschnabel. Hatfield asked if KVR would like to have the photo. Shows the ag fields and contour farming. Historical record. Wondering if people think it is worth saving – Kronschnabel can look in to digitalizing it. Will roll out photo and look at it after the meeting.
- V. Education & Tourism Committee Report. Manke: had pollinator day at KVR May 13th – two Driftless Dialogues – one about bumblebees and another about monarchs with guided hike in between. Attendance was low – talks were excellent. May 17th Manke and Joan Peterson held a citizen scientist meeting. Peterson has ideas for engaging volunteers and getting people to participate in monarch monitoring. School groups are going well – fourteen schools in April and May with ten more to go this month. Manke working closely with instructors – updates to challenge course have been great. Struggling to find instructors especially on days with larger groups. Summer camp less than three weeks out – gearing up welcome letters, rosters, and supplies. Awarded \$1,400 grant from Cabela's for fly fishing gear – KVR will get to keep equipment – will be able to offer camp again. Next meeting June 8th.
- VI. Land Management Update. Committee met May 16th. Downing: Hanson Rock field plan – pollinator habitat plan for 60 acres. Discussed milkweed grant that was received. Invasive update – 100+ volunteers collected garlic mustard – still more out there - anyone that wants to participate is welcome. Ag lease update – since banning neonicotinoids required to get bag tags from farmers for their seed – Leis has been collecting these – everyone in compliance so far – may still need to get from a few landlocked lease holders. Six porta potties out on the property - \$130/unit/month – AW Septic from La Farge got the bid. Trails opened May 3rd to horse/bike. Discussed Willow Camp (self-contained units only) and about changing wording so that no more than one tent is allowed per site. Enforcement – looking to hire two more officers. Also talked about putting gravel in low spots at campsites.
- VII. Finance Committee Update. Lind: committee met May 15th. Motion and approved recommendation to KRMB to affirm not using any KVR funds for any feasibility study regarding KVFS building location(s). Options to pay for it include asking FKVR for unallocated funds, KVFS Governance Council, or La Farge School District. Committee also discussed the need for a 3–5-year forecast for carry-over revenue in 12100 appropriation. Looking for feedback from staff, Land Management and Education & Tourism Committee's on program needs. Finance committee will take those items and help strategize and recommend to KRMB how those items get financed and help set timeline. Trying to think big picture and plan ahead. Next meeting June 26th.
- VIII. Enforcement Update. Leis: looking to hire a few more part-time officers. Leis/Malanka/Frye are only officers currently. One applicant so far and another potential hire that is retiring soon. Got okay from State on computer program that have been waiting for approval. Leis/Malanka went to Sun Prairie yesterday and fitted for body armor – ten weeks before they show up. \$1,800/each – distributes weight on chest vs. on belt – wear over uniform – same as what conservation officers wear.

- IX. Other issues.
- Board member matters or requests for future agenda topics. Downing: pollinator habitat – 60 acres. Also, Willow Camp – redefining campsite guidelines – self-contained units with only one tent per site. Hoel: discuss where Forest School will place their next classroom.
- X. Next KRMB meeting June 15, 2023. Downing/Maxwell motion to adjourn, motion carries. The meeting adjourned 8:01 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk