

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
May 17, 2018

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Ron Johnson.
- Board members in attendance: Ron Johnson, Paul Hayes, A.J. Mann, Reggie Nelson, Richard Wallin, Susan Cushing, Dave Maxwell, Bill Quackenbush; absent: Tracy Littlejohn, Travis Downing. Staff present: Marcy West, Jason Leis, Erica Cronk, Jackie Yocum.
 - Introductions: Marcia Bader, Friends of KVR Treasurer
 - Motion by Quackenbush/Cushing to approve the agenda. Unanimous.
 - Maxwell/Wallin motion to approve February 15, 2018 minutes; motion carried. Johnson noted employee evaluations completed and sent to state.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: West – Yes, it's been posted in compliance with State law.
- II. Budget Report -
- Fiscal Year to Date revenue and expenditures [handout provided]. YTD fiscal summary for FY18 July, 2017 – April, 2018. Heading in to end of FY18.
 - West discussed breakdown of different accounts. 12100 account is revenue appropriation. Revenue continues to grow through the spring including annual passes, summer camp payments and ag leases. 12200 account is Gift and Grant; Nuzum Driftless Dialogue final presentation is next month - grant approved for another two years; Oak Management another Nuzum grant included in 12200. FEMA money from flood of September 2016 has come through. DOA working to put funding into appropriate lines in 12100 account. Space Grants all wrapping up end of FY18. 12400 law enforcement account has healthy balance. Additional LTE hours with turkey season and trails opening. New radios will be purchased out of supplies and services line. No carry over. 16100 appropriation very low balance. DOA has requested supplements for fringe benefits. Will watch closely through the rest of fiscal year. No carry over. May 24th West and Cronk will travel to Madison to meet with DOA and plan next two-year budget.
- III. Exhibit Upgrade – Johnson updated starting sub-committee to raise money for upgrade. Looking for people to join committee. West initiated discussion on different upgrade levels – Minor, Major or Complete Refurbishment. Upgrade was discussed at April Collaborative Meeting with Friends of KVR and indication was for complete refurbishment. Upgrade will eventually go out for bid; Bluewater Technologies will have option to bid. KVR, Friends of KVR and Ho-Chunk all represented in process. Wallin motion to develop sub-committee to move towards one-year fundraising campaign to raise \$600,000 (Complete Refurbishment option). Cushing seconds. Motion carries. A committee will be developed by June KRMB meeting. Brad Steinmetz added exhibit already has a lot of good things, just need to make sure “stories” are told.
- IV. Land Management Committee Update: Wallin – Met May 7th, 2018
- NIXLE notification system for storms and emergencies. A couple warnings have been sent out since KVR adopted system. Stickers have been distributed throughout property informing people how to sign up for alerts. Campers especially should be encouraged to sign up. Easy to opt out of text messages. Leis updated Wildcat Mountain State Park and canoe rental locations in Ontario have been provided NIXLE stickers and posters to display. Leis discussed river issues; working on log jam removals.
 - Johnston shared update on invasive species at May 7th meeting. Handed out invasive species calendar by the month.
 - Bid out for paving north section of 131 trail. Bids due back end of May.

- Trails and flood recovery discussion. Leis updated the River Crossing trail by campsite G is closed until further notice. Every year the trail has been eroded more. Signage has been displayed on both sides of river alerting trail users that the trail is closed. Crossing has always been an issue. Wallin motion to close trail indefinitely through this season. Cushing seconds. Unanimous.
- West updated natural surface trails will open for the first time this season Friday, May 18 at noon. Some sections will remain closed until conditions approve.
- Weister Creek update: Hayes [review on screen]. Numbers are for geographic reference. Green segment phase 2 completed in 2016. Phase three in purple finished last summer. Trail system parallels phases 1 and 2; 3 will go in this year. Prairie planting occurred last year on phase 3; greening up now. Larger rock being used on Phase 4; helps with increased water flow further down creek. Phase 4 to be complete by July 1st. Tree removal/bank clearing has begun on Phase 5. Brush piles expected to burn this spring/summer. Weister Creek budget [reviewed on screen]. Funding is on two-third, one-third match. We come up with one-third and DNR comes up with two-thirds. KVR contributed \$10,000 in supplies and in-kind. May need to request more funding for phase 5. Would like to have fundraising target for phase 5 by September 30th, 2018. More seed will need to be purchased in July for Phase 5; estimate approximately \$1,500 expense.
- Enforcement update: Leis updated more patrols now that trail season is ramping up; after Memorial Day will be putting on weekday patrols. Enforcement account has healthy balance; shifts are getting filled. Working on purchasing new enforcement radios; cost around \$6,000; programmed to WISCOM, same system Vernon County uses.

V. Other:

- Audience – no issues.
- Agency Liaisons – no issues.
- Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve – Bader update: Approximately 100 people attended poetry reading with kids at Spring Fling event on April 28th; event raised \$3,675 which was then split with Sister City Santa Theresa program in Richland Center; made about the same amount of money as last year. Upcoming events: Land Ethics Workshop on June 1 and 2, 2018; open to the public. 4th of July Old Hwy tour reception; noon – 4 pm. Rustic Raft Rally July 28th; theme is traditional wisdom; building rafts floating from bridge 12 to 14; treasure hunts; campfires; budget is approximately \$2,000; Friends hired Yocum to coordinate event. Membership update: 254 members so far 2018; 28 less than same time last year.
- Board and Staff:
 - West [Revenue/Expense handout provided]: Tromp & Chomp held May 12, 2018; focus prizes and event on food; event went well; approximately 70 participated; people liked the route; a lot of positive feedback; not a big fundraiser; may need to consider sponsorships next year; \$60 registration fee; lunch could be purchased for \$25. Nelson commented great race, good prizes, mud was fine. Next year race will be held May 11, 2019. Creative Communities held in March 2018; budget shows Friday event with students and professional artists and Saturday with adults open to the public; budget also includes canvas event; consider moving Winter Fest auction to Creative Communities event; waiting on check from Lion's Club.
 - West shared that we are staffed for summer months. Knowler and Jensen back for Front Desk help; field crew has few new hires as well as returning LTE's; summer camp has another intern this summer.

- VI. Calls for Suggestions of Future Agenda Items – June Field Trip site requests; Weister Creek, Bridge 13, covered bridge on Indian Creek, Lichen update from Cushing.
- VII. Next regular KRMB meeting August 16, 2018. Wallin suggests discussion on KVR contribution to funding on Phase 5 of Weister Creek project at meeting; Friends will also have staff appreciation

party prior to or following August KRMB meeting. Quackenbush/Maxwell motion to adjourn; motion carries. Meeting adjourned 8:20 PM.

VIII. Recorded by: Erica Cronk