

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
October 20, 2022

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Dick Wallin. Wallin: Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- Board members in attendance: Tina Brown, Travis Downing, Scott Lind, AJ Mann, Dave Maxwell, Reggie Nelson, Bill Quackenbush, Dick Wallin. Board members via Zoom: Julie Hoel. Absent: Barb Sarnowski, Luke Zahm. Staff in-person: Erica Cronk, Jonel Kiesau, Scott Walter. Staff via Zoom: Jackie Yocum. Audience in-person: Beth Unger, Friends of KVR (FKVR) Vice President; Meaghan Gustafson, La Farge School District Superintendent. Audience via Zoom: Julia Buckingham, KVFS Lead Teacher; Anne Marie Fryer.
 - Motion by Downing/Lind to approve the agenda. Unanimous. Motion carries.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Walter -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input: none.
- II. Election of Officers: Walter requests nominations for Chair. Lind nominates Wallin; Wallin declines. Brown nominates Quackenbush; Quackenbush declines. Quackenbush/Wallin nominate Lind; three requests. Unanimous election of Lind for Chair. Lind requests nominations for Vice Chair. Wallin/Quackenbush nominate Downing for Vice Chair. Unanimous election of Downing for Vice Chair. Lind requests nominations for Secretary. Quackenbush/Maxwell nominate Brown for Secretary. Unanimous election of Brown for Secretary. Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary terms are for one year.
- III. Wallin/Downing motion to approve the August 18, 2022 minutes with correction of listing Dave Maxwell as not in attendance; minutes approved as amended. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- IV. Friends of KVR Update. Unger: Friends Board had annual meeting on Monday, October 17th, 2022 - two new Board members. Planning underway for Holiday Happening event scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd. Return to pre-pandemic style event with live music, soup and salad, cookie and wreaths. Plan to highlight the new Discovery Center. Winter Festival planning around the corner.
- V. Informational Items.
- Reservation System Update. [view on screen]. Yocum: opened new system on Monday. Walk through what people see when visiting the front page of KVR website. Click on Book a Campsite. Taken to new page that explains changes in camping and Rule and Reminders. No refunds on camping reservations. Bookings can be made up to 45 days in advance or on-site same day. Signage displayed at each campsite with code or the website that allow registering on site. Notable change from before is people need to register and pay before setting up. View front page of reservation site as well as back site of reservation site. Several campers already registered with new system. Everything seems to be working well so far.
 - Dam Challenge Update. [view on screen]. Yocum: Event was held Saturday, October 1st. Beautiful day – 70+ degrees and sunny. Dry conditions. Medium to low river levels. Used new location for event near the dam – upland event site – accommodate a lot of people with little impact. Installed about half of new landing at Bridge 18 – worked well for event. 201 registrants – over half new racers. Routes and event overall was well received by racers. Big thank you to Ho-Chunk field crew for help prepping event site. Also, thanks to volunteers and Friends group. Special thanks to Marcia Bader for all her help. Hoel: thanks to Yocum for clearly explaining vision for new course. Plan to install remaining planks for Bridge 18 landing next week.
 - Status of Educational Exhibit project. Walter: Exhibits installed last week. Turned out exceptionally well - in line with designs. Some things need tweaked in dark sky exhibits area. Lind: make sure Raivo at DOA is aware of these design flaw issues.
 - 2023-2025 Biennial Budget Update [handout and review on screen]. Walter: opportunities for more staff given increase property usage, increase in educational programs and increase workload at Visitor Center and on property. Previously discussed using budget process to request these additional staff. However, Governor edict that agencies are not to request additional positions. By law, agencies asked to submit a budget with a five percent reduction. At this point no ask from any legislature or the governor’s office that this budget

reduction will occur – in place just in case. Looking at Goals and Objectives for biennium, given stable staffing, over the next biennium the goals will be to plateau and then level off.

VI. Action Agenda (Decision Items)

- Fundraising efforts supportive of 2023 Education Building. Walter: in July KRMB looked at site of future buildings – KRMB approved concept plan and Walter presented overview of fundraising. Walter reached out to three contractors as recommended. One provided estimate, waiting on other two. First estimate \$1,250,000. Basically, looking at around \$1,000,000 for cost of final building. The Fleckenstein Foundation have agreed to contribute \$175,000 if we can raise \$350,000. Small group met to brainstorm fundraising approach. Initial appeal to target potentially large donors. A video was produced by professional videographer who was contracted with to engage donors. View YouTube video on screen. Review Issue Brief [handout and on screen]. Need to get on a contractors schedule this winter. Goal to have funds in hand by mid-winter to be able to sign contract. Will need to pivot approach if funds are not raised – completing building in 2023 may not be realistic. Reevaluate approach to fundraising and talk next step at getting towards goal and completing building in 2024. Gustafson: La Farge Schools most appreciative for collaboration with KRMB. Maxwell thinks fundraising is doable. Quackenbush: some concerns we are pulling away from joint management and KVR mission. Environment is first and foremost. Things have a way of creeping up on you. Brown: need to work in partnership with the Memorandum of Understand (MOU). Would like to be able to take KRMB decision items back to Ho-Chunk members. Discussion on the original concept of the Reserve and founding of the property. Maxwell/Wallin motion to pursue fundraising for 2023 education building. Quackenbush/Brown abstain. Motion carries.

VII. Education & Tourism Committee Report. Kiesau: Committee met on October 12, 2022. No decision items at the meeting. Update on fall school groups – 20 trips with approximately 720 students. Instructor staffing a bit down right now. Three site surveys have been completed looking at impact of heavily used areas – continue surveying sites this fall and winter and bring comparisons to future KRMB meeting for review. Janice Rice from UW-Madison and member of the Ho-Chunk Nation presented last Saturday for the Driftless Dialogue lecture series on Ho-Chunk teachings and philosophy – talk recorded and now available on KVR YouTube channel and website.

VIII. Land Management Update. Wallin: Committee has not met since August. Received one bid for Bridge 16 rip rap project. One more bid coming in next week, then will announce the successful bidder.

IX. Enforcement Update. Wallin: Leis was called to the property on Tuesday to assist with a suicide attempt. Individual was med flighted.

X. Other issues.

- Board member matters or requests for future agenda topics. Brown: would like to start discussion on what it means to co-manage. Lind: should be entire KRMB discussion – propose Board review MOU and make notes and come with questions – do this as a first step, then have some sort of panel discussion. Tentatively at 5:30pm before December KRMB meeting. Lind: seeking Dark Sky resolution for KRMB review and approval at next meeting.

XI. Next KRMB meeting November 17, 2022.

Brown/Wallin motion to convene to closed session, pursuant to s. 19.185(1)(c) of Wisconsin State Statutes: *Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.*

Purpose: Status of Executive Director Search

Meeting adjourned into closed session 8:44 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk