Indiana Natural Resources Foundation

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Fort Harrison State Park Garrison – Lawrence Room

1. **New Board Members**

   Heather Harwood and Jason Kissel, the two most recent additions to the INRF board, were introduced.

2. **Review and Approve Minutes**

   Rick Cockrum moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026, board meeting. Shawn Kelly seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Updates**

   Jody Kress, INRF executive director, provided updates on the upcoming year-end appeal and fall newsletter. He shared that the INRF will have a wrap on the winter issue of Outdoor Indiana. Additionally, Kress shared that the Elkhart Bog Nature Preserve acquisition should be officially transferred to DNR shortly and discussed the early stages of a potential land acquisition campaign with the DNR land acquisition team.

4. **New Business**

   a. **Farm Leases**

      The board discussed two farm leases, the Hopf property and Trueblood property. The leases have been drafted and approved by DNR legal.

      Karen Valiquett moved to approve both the Hopf farm lease with the money earned to be designated for the land acquisition fund. Jason Kissel seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

      Karen Valiquett moved to approve the Trueblood farm lease with the money earned to be designated for the land acquisition fund. Rick Cockrum seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

   b. **Clifty Falls Easement**

      Kress and Erika Hinshaw, DNR Division of Land Acquisition project manager, shared about an easement that the INRF still holds from a previous land

acquisition at Clifty Falls State Park. DNR Land Acquisition and Legal are drafting paperwork for the land to be transferred to DNR.

c. Executive Session – Land Acquisition

Rick Cockrum moved to approve the project application as discussed in the executive session. Tom Shevlot seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Officer Elections

Tom Shevlot moved to approve the current slate of officers continuing for one more year in their existing roles. Matt Kiley seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The current slate of officers is as follows:

Missi Bush-Sawtelle, Chair

Rick Cockrum, Vice-Chair

Karen Valiquett, Secretary

Cam Clark, Treasurer

6. Adjournment

Rick Cockrum moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:16am. Karen Valiquett seconded the motion.

2026 Remaining Board Meeting Dates: December 8 – Ft. Harrison State Park