

DAIRYLAND OUTDOOR VETERANS RETREAT

Meeting Minutes

June 10th, 2025 6 pm

I. Call to order

Chairman, Doug Willert called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

II. Roll call

The following people were present: Jodi Schmidt, Don McConkey, Steve and Diane Olson, Gwen Schaff, Doug Willert, Brenda and Scott Larson, Heide Johnson, and Jeff Johnson. The Guest was Merle Meyer.

- III. **Approval of minutes from last meeting:** Discussion that some members had not received the May general minutes. Requested that they be re-sent. **The email that was sent out within minutes was re-sent.** Gwen Schaff made a motion to accept the minutes, Amy Honkala 2nd, motion carried.

IV. Chairman's Report:

Doug Willert reported that he toured the site with Travis from Noah insurance. Discussion: The policy was reviewed with the current insurance company and it looks to be acceptable other than maybe under insurance. Treasure and chair will look into this.

V. Treasurer Report:

Don McConkey reported that we have a bank balance of as of 05/31/25 of \$141,735 with. Don gave copies to all board members of deposits, expenses and CD balance of over \$83,000.

Donnie also said that our accounting firm came to look at the site and they were very impressed with the accomplishments and that we are debt free.

Licenses for the campsite and cabins were reviewed and renewed.

Donnie also shared that he and Scott Larson have been working hard to add additional WIFI units so that the campers have better access.

2 more camera's were also installed.

There was also conversation to remove Rod Wilson and Merle Meyer from the checking account at the Community State Bank in Siren and to add the new Chair Doug Willert and board members Brenda and Scott Larson. Heide Johnson made the motion

to make these changes and Steve Olson 2nd, motion carries. Doug, Brenda and Scott will make appointments to do this.

- VI. **Secretary's Report:** Jodi reported that thank you cards were sent out to those that have donated in the last month. Jodi also reported that she submitted a grant through the WIDA foundation and is currently working on a grant through NAILBA. We have secured a sponsor and she is working to get the grant completed by the August 25th deadline. The request is for \$48,000, which will be used to secure funds for excavating and concrete pouring for the Gathering Center.

VII. **Unfinished Business-**

Nothing to report

VIII. **Committee Reports:**

A. Marketing/Public Relations and Website:

Heide requested that Tyler (former board member) continue to be sent minutes as he uploads to the website. She had discussed with Tyler to update the website to remove Merle Meyer, remove sponsorship, update photos and to add the EV policy that the board approved in May.

Discussion on the EV policy is that we are being more restrictive and signs will be made and put on the electric hookups at the campsite to state NO EV charging. Terms and conditions were included in the camp spot reservation platform.

Heide also mentions that she has been promoting on FACEBOOK and also that Travel Wisconsin has recognized us as a viable location for camping and have us on their site with a link to our website,

B. Campspot: As of May 6th through Dec 31, 2025: we have \$3,800 in reservations

C. Fundraising:

1-Prime Dinner-Letters have been sent out and already have a few responses. The event will be October 11th at the Northland Community Center. Volunteer letters are available and this year volunteers will pay \$40.00 to be included in the grand prize raffle. Volunteers will eat for free. We are in need of donations, so Heide requested that everyone work in their areas to start requesting donations for the event. Amy requested the donation letter and W-9. Jodi sent those to her.

2-Golden Ticket- Drawing at DOVR on October 19th. If we do not sell the remaining tickets, it then becomes a 50/50 drawing. This is advertised on the ticket.

3- Fall UTV Ride- Mindy is in charge of this and we will discuss further as we get closer to the event.

4- Crowd Funding- this will be added to the next agenda to have a presentation shown and then open for discussion.

D. Building Maintenance:

Nothing to report on maintenance.

Gathering Center: Dale Anderson was not able to connect with the Adventure's people. Doug informed us that the Amish actually built the restaurants and that there are NO blueprints. Doug has connections with an Amish group and Military Crews that could potentially be interesting in working on the Gathering Center. He will look into that.

E. Garden Report: Gardens are looking really nice. A lot of weeding and fresh mulch has been added. Some flowers are being moved. Thanks to Brenda and Steve Larson for helping with the garden. Diane and Steve Olson shared pictures of the pergola they are purchasing within their allotted budget. Lola Visgar gave a gift certificate from Austin Lake greenhouse as a memorial to Gene Visgar. A burning bush was purchased.

F. Newsletter:

Gwen shared she is in the process of compiling pictures, stories and data together to get this out soon, it is very time consuming.

H. Camp Host

The playground needs new edging as the sand is not staying out. Heide made a motions to give Brenda and Scott Larson a \$500.00 allotment from the maintenance budget to purchase edging.

Cabin Area- improvement to ground, black dirt and seed is needed. There is a budget under buildings and maintenance to take care of these issues. Jeff Johnson will contact area dirt supplies to get the best pricing and order the black dirt.

IX. New Business

1. Jeff Johnson shared that we are purchasing pizza for sale at the campsite and that we do have a pizza oven on site for use, however the campers are responsible for

- making their own pizza if they choose to use the pizza oven in the kitchen area. We also are selling small items for purchase like candy bars and snacks. Brenda and Scott are overseeing this.
2. Heide shared information regarding a defibrillator. More discussion is needed and will be added to the next agenda.
 3. Amy asked if DOVR has ever been in contact with the 23rd Veterans Recon Group. Don said yes, and Doug also said he has connections. Amy is going to connect with the group and bring back information and will add to the next agenda. Heide mentions that we do have the grant available for groups if they come and talk to the board about their organization. They could potentially receive a free weekend if the board approves.
 4. Heide asked about “glamping” sites. This will be added on next month's agenda to further discuss.
 5. Doug asked that we add to the next agenda a work date discussion for cleaning up around the campsite.

IXI. Adjournment

Jodi Schmidt made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm, 2nd by Gwen Schaaf. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 6th at 6pm. Respectfully submitted by:

Jodi Schmidt

Jodi Schmidt, Secretary