

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday April 10, 2015
10-11:30AM
Memorial Union T.I.T.U.
APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Kristina Bartowitz, Gary Brown, Rhonda James, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Glenda Denniston (Friends), David Drake (FWE), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Karla Knobel (Waisman), Seth McGee (Biocore), Marcus Mueller (FWE), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Will Waller (Friends), Suzy Will-Wolf (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve),

Minutes

A motion was made by Turnquist and seconded by Raffa to approve the March 13, 2015 minutes with the addition of “to discuss the student engagement grant proposals” to the last sentence. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Carla Knobel introduced herself; she recently joined the Friends of the Preserve.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)

Bill Elvey, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning and Management, said the Preserve budget will remain intact for next year. Brown will continue to update the Committee on any budget issues.

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

Wyatt has been helping the Friends of the Preserve with the Eagle Heights Woods Project as a liaison to the UW Foundation. She brought examples of the Friends Eagle Heights Woods Project promotional materials. The Friends are trying to raise \$135,000 for the Eagle Heights Woods Project.

The funds for the 2015 Student Engagement Grants have been transferred to the grant recipients.

Wyatt and staff have been working on the Invasive Plant Control Guidance and Strategies Handbook.

There have been 11 new research permits issued since the beginning of year.

Wyatt continues to meet with stakeholders and volunteers and will spend more time in the field this spring and summer.

3. Capital Projects Report

The fences will come down around the West Campus Stormwater Lot 60 pond next week. The contractor will continue to monitor the vegetation there and in the University Bay Drive ditches.

The UW is still in the process of hiring an Environmental Impact Assessment consultant for the West Natatorium recreation fields.

The Haight Road reconstruction and the Housing recycle lot are both in the design phase. By mid-April there should be preliminary plans for the recycle lot.

The city has a plan for trapping sediments in Willow Creek. An Environmental Impact Assessment will begin soon. There will be a public meeting; watch for announcements.

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

One unit in Biocore Prairie and 1 unit on Picnic Point were burned on April 5. Other planned burns could not take place due to winds out of the wrong direction. There is a possibility for prescribed burns on Tues. April 14.

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Sriver)

Last quarter 74 volunteers, including 10 campus and community groups, donated 186 hours of service to the care of the Preserve. There were 6 scheduled volunteer workparties, but 2 were canceled due to extreme cold.

On April 22, Earth Day, the Preserve will host about 200 volunteers from Spectrum Brands and the Clean Lakes Alliance to pull garlic mustard.

On Tues. April 14 UW Communications will send out a press release welcoming dogs-on-leash to the Preserve. The Preserve will also send an article to nearby neighborhood associations for inclusion in their newsletters and outreach. On May 2, 3, 9, 10 Preserve staff and student volunteers from the Vet School will be present at Preserve entrances to reward visitors who have their dogs on leash. We plan to pass out “goodies” donated by the Vet School and Mounds Pet Store. The UWPD West Campus Community Officer will provide training to staff and interested volunteers on how to best approach visitors who are not following Preserve rules. If you are interested in joining the training please contact Bryn Sriver or Laura Wyatt.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Waller)

The Friends Annual Meeting was held on Tues. evening April 7. John Kutzbach, UW Climate expert, gave a great presentation. Two new board members were elected to the Friends Board—Corey George, a certified arborist and forester with Shorewood Hills, and Mike Parsen,

hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. The Friends have raised \$80,000 so far for the Eagle Heights Woods project.

Waller encouraged Committee members to join the April 25 field trip in Eagle Heights Woods led by Adam Gundlach.

2014 Student Engagement Grant presentation: UW Urban Canid Project (David Drake)

Drake, Associate Professor in Forest and Wildlife Ecology and Extension Wildlife Specialist, used a 2014 Student Engagement Grant to work out the methodologies to test 2 fox and 2 coyote radio collars. The grant in part allowed Drake to secure a larger grant to support graduate student Marcus Mueller to continue collaring and tracking canids in the Preserve and the City of Madison this past winter.

Project Objectives: Understand interspecific competition in a urban setting; Understand disease risk; Engage and educate students and the public, including what to do if they see them.

In 2014 researchers trapped 6 coyotes and 1 fox in the Preserve. Trapping was conducted in Biocore Prairie and Muir Woods.

In 2015 they trapped 2 coyotes and 1 fox. Trapping was conducted in Biocore Prairie, Caretakers Woods, University Bay Marsh and the marsh to the east of Willow Creek as well as in private properties around Madison. The collared coyotes (a mating pair) have been staying close to University Bay Marsh and Biocore Prairie. The male fox, collared near Willow Creek in January 2015, has been roaming the east part of campus to east of the Capitol to Monona Bay. It was struck and killed by a car on Campus Drive recently, but not before it successfully mated with a female fox on campus. Researchers plan to catch and collar pups/kits at the den site this summer. They will continue the regular trapping again in the fall.

The research team had over 100 volunteers join them as they collared and tracked the canids in the field and another 100 volunteers who called in with canid sightings around the city.

Drake had 2 reports of domestic dogs being caught in traps in Biocore Prairie. However he concluded after talking to the dog owners and investigating the trap sites that those reports were false. He said that after talking to them the dog owners seemed to understand the value of the research and the safety precautions taken. In 1,500 trap nights the researchers only caught 3 non-target species—all raccoons.

Drake thanked the Preserve Committee for the initial grant to start the project and the Preserve staff for their support.

The research can be followed at <https://www.facebook.com/uwurbancanidproject>

Subcommittee Reports

1. Information Dissemination/Education (Turnquist and Urrutia)

Four projects were awarded Student Engagement Grants. They were:

Native Pollinator Conservation Program—Emily Greinwald, UW student in Zoology and Conservation Biology and Susan Carpenter, UW Arboretum--\$725

The Impact of Road Salt on the Water Chemistry of the Class of 1918 Marsh—Greta Helmueller, UW student and John Magnuson, Center for Limnology--\$1000

Survival and Habitat Use of Eastern Gray Squirrels in an Urban Preserve—Jonathan Pauli, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology--\$980

Propagation Bed for Fruit Cloning--Will Waller, Eagle Heights Community Gardens; Lynn Hummel, UW Agricultural Research Stations and Greenhouses; and FH King Student Farm--\$300

The total amount awarded was \$3005.00. Two proposals were not funded. Funds for the grants come from the Academic Fund started by Professor Robert Goodman (now at Rutgers) and the late Henry Hart.

2. Planning and Implementation (Wyatt)

The subcommittee met this week to review the draft Invasive Plant Control Guidance and Strategies Handbook.

3. Communications and Archives

No report

4. Development

No report

ACTION ITEM: Invasive Plant Control Guidance and Strategies Handbook (Wyatt and Gundlach)

The handbook is intended to be an internal document to guide staff and contractors on how to deal with individual species. It will be edited over time. Staff was able to use information previously compiled by the UW Arboretum and the Wisconsin DNR to craft a document specific to the Preserve which interfaces the UW Pesticide Policy.

Comments—

Glenda Denniston—The guidance document mentions monitoring but not specifically checking effectiveness of applications.

Preserve staff will add checking effectiveness to monitoring.

Ken Raffa—Be consistent in how you use the term ‘invasive.’ Specifically, remove cases where the handbook references native plants (e.g. *Populus tremuloides*). Replace the term ‘undesirable’ vegetation with ‘vegetation inconsistent with our management objectives’. Delete the page

‘What’s the Deal ..’ It conflates functions, casts managers’ concern over invasives as ‘obsessed’ (line 1), and tries to parse cause vs. symptom across a vast diversity of organisms and ecosystems, all needlessly distracting.

Seth Mcgee—One of the plants interfering most with prairie restoration in the Preserve is *Solidago canadensis*, a native species, would this document limit us in controlling this species?

Ken Raffa—No it would not. Just don’t call *Solidago canadensis* invasive!

Gary Brown—Why not use NR40 list of invasive species to determine what is invasive.

Preserve staff have identified invasive species specific to the Preserve from the NR40 list.

Phil Townsend—It may be worthwhile to provide more information on why specific species were included in the Handbook. You could add a column to the species priority table with a ranking or criteria for why that species was included.

Preserve staff will provide criteria for species inclusion in the table.

Kennedy Gilchrist—Agricultural research shows that Roundup is losing its potency. Are findings similar for its use in natural areas management?

The Invasive Plant Control Guidance cover page was presented as an action item. The Handbook had more constructive feedback than could be changed in amendments. It was suggested that Preserve staff make the changes and bring the Handbook back to the next meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Raffa and seconded by Townsend to approve the Invasive Plant Control Guidance document with the following amendments: remove from the title “and Control Methods Handbook” and insert in the body of the document, “...Preserve staff have compiled the following invasive plant control guidance and ‘a separate’ control methods handbook...”

The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held May 1 in Room 1420 WARF. Committee members will have a chance to give input on the campus master plan.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Raffa and seconded by Turnquist.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver