



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday December 15, 2017
9:30-11:00am
Union South, Industry A
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Jacqueline Beaulieu, Gary Brown, David Drake, Sara Hotchkiss, Kelly Ignatoski, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present

Kris Ackerbauer (FPM), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Doris Dubielzig (Friends), Peter Fisher (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Krista Marshall (Student Engagement Grant recipient), Seth McGee (Biocore), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Steve Sentoff (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 2017 was made by Urrutia and seconded by Beaulieu. The motion was approved unanimously.

Student Engagement Grant presentation – Krista Marshall

“Soil as the Missing Link in Prairie Restoration and Ecological Education”

The research goals of the project were:

- Enhance restoration efforts by providing detailed soil analysis of the Biocore Prairie.
- Analyze two sections of the prairie with observably different plant responses.
- Provide accessible research techniques and data.

Marshall conducted a detailed soil analysis for Biocore Area 3 (planted 2005) and Area 6 (planted for first time in winter 2016). Biocore interns helped to collect the field data samples.

Her results indicated that bulk density was not significantly different between areas but soil organic matter was significantly lower in the restored prairie (Area 3). These unexpected results lead her to believe there are other processes outside of land use changes influencing restoration progress.

Janet Batzli praised Marshall’s research saying her findings have already been used by Biocore students this fall.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 15, 2017
2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 15, 2017
3. Capital Projects Report (Gary Brown for Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 15, 2017

Brown noted that the Madison Water Utility has plans to expand the water utility building north of the Eagle Heights Community Gardens to include more filtering systems. The Preserve and FP&M staff will share plans when the plans become available..

Roma Lenehan wanted make sure that the new lighting planned for the Nielsen Tennis Stadium would be dark-sky compliant. Brown said the new lighting indeed would be dark-sky compliant, as would any new lighting at the new parking lot to replace Lot 130.

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 15, 2017

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 15, 2017

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Doris Dubielzig for Gisela Kutzbach)
See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Year-End Report – December 15, 2017

Steve Sentoff shared the results from the survey of the Friends planting areas in Frautsch Point Woods. Two areas were planted between 2013-2016. The south planting area had more planting and as a result had more species diversity. Over 100 plant species were recorded in each area. Data was evaluated by plot and by species. An attempt was made to estimate success rate by species to determine which plants did great, just ok or not very good. The data can be useful to help determine how to go forward with future plantings. Sentoff noted that the amount of sunlight on the plots made a difference. They also did not assess soil types.

Glenda Denniston emphasized that the south planting area has a history of planting by her and other Friends volunteers that goes back to 2006.

Hotchkiss thanked the Friends for the survey that adds to the on-going and developing Preserve records.

Dubielzig said the survey methods would be available on the Friends website as well as given to Preserve staff so that it can be repeated in the future.

Review of 2018 Draft Work Plan and Budget

Preserve staff walked through the 2018 draft work plan.

Janet Batzli asked if FP&M was interested in a BCycle station at the entrance to Picnic Point. Her students have expressed an interest in the program for accessing the Preserve for classes. According to Gary Brown the program is managed by the city of Madison and Trek Bicycles. He thinks the site will be a better location for a station in the future with the redesigned Lot 130. Brown said he meets monthly with UW Transportation and this is something they can keep in mind for the future. Batzli offered to survey Biocore students about their interest in a BCycle station.

Laura Wyatt went over the details of the draft operating budget which shows the actual expenses for fiscal year 2016, the projected expenses for fiscal year 2017, and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018.

Wyatt noted the following highlights:

1. Under Equip/Infrastructure (6820) “site amenities” the projected expenses for 2017 are \$54,000, when

only \$4,000 was budgeted, due to three major gifts: two benches and improvements to fire circle #3, with all three projects completed in 2017.

2. Under Ecological Restoration (6830) “Veg. mgmt. contractor”, \$26,000 of the total expenses are for the Eagle Heights Woods project.

3. Actual expenses for temporary and seasonal hires seem to come in lower than budgeted depending on when candidates start and end their seasonal positions.

4. Under Outreach/Education (6850) “signs”, the increase in spending proposed for 2018 is for the new interpretive panels in the existing 3 kiosks. The money is coming from the proceeds of the Dugan endowment fund.

5. The grand total from gift funds (\$115,000) includes the gift for the Eagle Heights project and the invasive plant initiative, in addition to \$70,000 in undesignated stewardship funds.

6. The University fully supports staff salaries and training. The Preserve was also the recipient of a new vehicle – a multipurpose tool cat with 2 attachments – from FP&M residual funds. In all the Preserve received \$179,000 from the University in 2017.

7. In addition, the Preserve received \$100,000 in contributed services from UW Grounds in 2017. Grounds assists the Preserve with hazard tree removal, trail maintenance, and mowing.

Total projected expenses for 2017 is \$429,500. The proposed budget for expenses in 2018 is \$395,000.

Wyatt thought we should add a line item for the value of volunteer time/donated services to show the monetary value of the many volunteer hours provided each year. The committee agreed that this would be important to share with university leadership.

Hotchkiss was impressed with the slim budget for the management of 300 acres.

Brown said Preserve staff welcome changes or suggestions to the proposed budget over the next couple of months with the intent to ask the committee to approved the draft budget and work plan at their meeting in February 2018.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Batzli and seconded by Urrutia to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist