

**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Thursday February 15, 2018
9:30-11:00am
Union South
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Jacqueline Beaulieu, David Drake, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Abby Kotecki, Jeremy Sanford, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Seth McGee (Biocore), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Steve Sentoff (Friends), Kyle Webert (Ecology 460 Coordinator), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

Roma Lenehan's last name is misspelled. A motion to approve the edited minutes from November 17, 2017 was made by Drake and seconded by Urrutia. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review and Approval of 2018 Work Plan and Budget

The Preserve fiscal year is March 1 to February 28 to be better aligned with the growing season. Preserve staff conduct two stakeholder meetings each year where staff report out and ask for comments. The September meeting focuses on recent management activity and provides an opportunity for questions and proposed project ideas. The January meeting is a review of the upcoming draft work plan and budget with another opportunity for questions from stakeholders.

Laura Wyatt presented the final draft work plan and budgets for the Committee's approval. Any significant changes from the previous year were highlighted in yellow.

Work Plan

No changes were made to the work plan since the Preserve Committee saw the document at their December meeting.

David Drake asked how the Preserve was prioritizing locations for the regeneration of oaks. Wyatt said that was being informed by the Preserve Master Plan, where the Preserve has been losing oaks to oak wilt, and where staff are seeing oaks regenerating naturally. Drake asked if damage by deer were a concern. Roma Lenehan said deer do not seem to overwinter in the Preserve.

Janet Batzli asked if the Preserve was tracking its website use. Bryn Scriver said the Preserve uses Google Analytics to do so.

Capital Budget

The draft capital budget includes both capital and land uses not traditionally considered capital projects. Money for some specific areas of the Preserve is coming from donor designated accounts at the UW Foundation for specific capital improvement projects.

Operating Budget

The draft operating budget was amended as a result of our annual gift campaign. Added was \$11,300 under *Student hourly workers* so that Preserve staff can add a summer student hourly position with a donor-directed gift in support of removing invasive plant species. This is an opportunity to hire an undergraduate student and provide experiential learning for someone who can use this as a stepping stone for their career. Preserve staff are also offering two short-term student positions to help the Preserve control garlic mustard this spring.

Also added was \$1,000 under *Equipment* to purchase a tablet to use for tracking and recording management of invasive plants.

Jacqueline Beaulieu noted that for the *Invasive initiative* the Preserve has budgeted \$20,000 but spent less than that in the past. Wyatt explained that this was because our ideal candidates were unable to start as early in the spring as we would have liked and they departed earlier than planned due to securing full-time employment before the end of their employment term with the Preserve.

A motion to approve the final draft 2018 Work Plan, the 2018 Operating Budget and the 2018 Capital Budget was moved by Batzli and seconded by Drake. The motion carried unanimously.

Permit Holder Presentation—Kyle Webert, General Ecology 460 Course Coordinator

Kyle Webert is the Course Coordinator for Botany/Integrative Biology/ Forest and Wildlife Ecology 460, a 4-credit lecture and lab, with about 200 students per year in the Fall, Spring, and Summer sessions. He has been in the position for 1 year.

The course objectives and goals are: 1) to get students to think like an ecologist, conduct independent research, identify common local species, and be better informed citizens/people.

Experiential learning is important. Some of their outdoor labs are conducted in the Preserve: Muir Woods, Picnic Point, and Eagle Heights Woods. In their first outdoor lab they visit Muir Woods to learn 10 common tree species. At Picnic Point they do a lab on bark foraging birds where they look for evidence of niche partitioning, record observations of foraging events, use data to learn statistical tests, and develop novel hypotheses and support with statistical analysis. At Eagle Heights Woods they do a gradient analysis by sampling across aspects. They identify tree species and measure diameter at breast height. The class data is combined and students look for patterns in density and basal area.

The course also integrates ethics and ecological thinking and puts those ideas into action with service learning. They have worked with the Preserve volunteer coordinator to pull garlic mustard, cut buckthorn, and pull Queen Anne's lace.

Students plan and conduct independent research projects. About a third of these projects are conducted in the Preserve since it's so accessible and the students are familiar with it since they've been there before with labs.

Webert shared 2 student videos. Students have to produce a tweet and a video to share their research in an easy way to understand what they did and why.

Webert said the Preserve makes the Ecology 469 class possible.

Webert received suggestions from the Committee on how to obtain trail cameras through a Lab Improvement Grant or through a Preserve Student Engagement Grant.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report

See Preserve Staff Reports –February 15, 2018

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports –February 15, 2018

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports –February 15, 2018

University Bay Drive will not be moved with the closing of parking lot 129 and the redesign of parking lot 130. Lot 129 will not close until the redesigned Lot 130 is completed and opened for use. When Lot 129 is closed the gravel will be removed and the area restored. University Bay Drive will not be changed until funding is secured for the Preserve Outreach Center and for the cost of moving the road.

4. Field Activities Report

See Preserve Staff Reports –February 15, 2018

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports –February 15, 2018

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Steve Sentoff for Gisela Kutzbach)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Report – February 2018

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist