



**University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Wednesday October 24, 2018  
11:30-1:00pm  
Union South, Industry Room  
Meeting Notes  
(No quorum therefore no action)**

**Present**

Janet Batzli, Jacqueline Beaulieu, Gary Brown, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Joe Webb

**Also Present**

Ann Burgess (Friends), Doris Dubielzig (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Galen Hasler (Friends), John Magnuson (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

**Minutes**

No quorum; action on meeting minutes from September 26, 2018 tabled until the November meeting.

**Public Comment**

None

**Staff Reports**

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)

*See Preserve Staff Reports –October 24, 2018*

Brown just returned from the American Society of Landscape Architects annual meeting held in Philadelphia, PA. The UW-Madison Campus Master Plan received a 2018 ASLA National Honor Award in Analysis & Planning.

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

*See Preserve Staff Reports –October 24, 2018*

David Drake's UW Urban Canid Project will place animal carcasses in the Preserve again soon to attract canids for radio collaring. These bait piles will be off trail where people should not be walking. Wyatt has let other permit holders know this is happening.

On Homecoming Day from 8-10 a.m. Preserve staff hosted about 20 Preserve visitors to a fire and hot chocolate on Picnic Point. This was an opportunity to get the Preserve's name included in University of Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association events listings.

Stakeholders have until November 1 to submit project and program proposals for the Preserve. The Planning and Implementation subcommittee will review proposals and make recommendations to this committee.

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

*See Preserve Staff Reports –October 24, 2018*

MGE started forestry mowing the border between Lake Mendota Drive and Eagle Heights Community Gardens this week in order to bury the overhead electric lines.

The new memorial bench in Muir Woods will be located halfway between the Gard Storytellers Circle and the Sewell Social Sciences building.

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports –October 24, 2018*

Since March 1, 2017 the city of Madison has allowed the Preserve to burn when the DNR fire danger rating is high. Professional fire crews often need to burn on these days to meet burn objectives and it opens up more days for us to do fire work. The fire danger rating is really a public relations tool to inform untrained landowners about burn conditions. Professional crews have the training to conduct burns safely on these days.

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports –October 24, 2018*

**Student Engagement Grant (Jacqueline Beaulieu)**

The 2019 request for proposals has been changed slightly from last year. We have had requests for continued funding in the past, not necessarily from the same person but the same project or a multi-year proposal. We want to get more people in the Preserve so we are asking that requests for continued funding justify the need. We are also changing the award notification date from mid-March to late March to give the committee more time to meet and make the awards. Since these are minor tweaks, no vote is needed.

**Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report** (Doris Dubielzig)  
*See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report –October 24, 2018*

The Friends were approached by the Boys and Girls Club to lead a tour in the Preserve. However the Preserve is not set up for leading tours for children. Wyatt arranged for the Arboretum to provide a UW employee naturalist to lead the tour and the Preserve will reimburse the Arboretum for the cost. Current Friends policy is that guides are unpaid. Wyatt will meet with the UW Precollege and Youth Program to find out what is required for providing programming for youth within the Preserve.

**Future Planning for the Class of 1918 Marsh (John Magnuson)**

The Class of 1918 Marsh serves, in part, as a storm water detention pond and is a disturbed wetland in a nature preserve with a growing invasive cattail problem. Magnuson gathered a group of wetland restoration experts for a walk around the marsh in summer 2018 to discuss possibilities for rehabilitating the marsh.

Rehabilitation recommendations summary:

- 1) Implement seasonal fluctuation of water levels. Let reestablishment of water level processes play out over the years. Be persistent and observe responses. Fluctuating water levels, helps mitigate cattail growth. (University staff and Friends)
- 2) Implement a demonstration project to test how well cutting and removal of cattail biomass works on two, 100 x 100 meter plots at the existing viewing platform and canoe landing.
- 3) Establish a photo history from the beginning of the project. (Friends and staff)
- 4) Encourage research on the marsh (groundwater, seedbanks, etc.).

- 5) Research the prior history of the marsh. (Friends)
- 6) Observe, persist, and apply “adaptive management.” (all)

Do not:

- 1) Remove sediment.
- 2) Add plantings.
- 3) Quit as this is a long-term effort.
- 4) Over promise.

Recommendations on flow:

Improve the free flow of water through the marsh and regulate water levels to be high in the spring and low during fall and winter.

- Clean out the drain from the open marsh to the pump house (that pumps water from the marsh to the lake which is at a higher level than the marsh).
- Clean out the culvert to the south inlet, which usually drains relatively clean water from the hospital complex roofs.
- Remove vegetation from the channel flowing into the marsh which will improve water flow into the marsh.

Recommendation on reducing cattails:

- In the winter, when the ice is solid, drive a tractor and (PTO driven side cutter) hay cutter onto the ice to mow the cattails. Remove the cut vegetation in the winter to reduce biomass.
- Consider several demonstration sites of 100 meters x 100 meters areas for winter cutting and biomass removal. One could be at the viewing platform on the NW side of the marsh and another along the east trail where the cattail band is most narrow. Consider adding a small floating dock here to improve access and viewing and dip-netting the open waters.

Is rehabilitation feasible? We still need to know how much we need to manipulate the water level. Also the UW needs to find out if the Marsh can be raised and lowered with the current plumbing.

Brown said we also need to think about priorities for the Preserve. Does marsh rehabilitation rise to the top of the list?

Magnuson has planned a second marsh walk with cattail researcher Pamela Geddes and Cal Dewitt and Joy Zedler for November 16 from 9-11a.m.

## **Adjournment**

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist