



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Thursday December 12, 2019
11:00pm-12:30pm
Union South, Landmark Room
Minutes Approved**

Present

Janet Batzli, Rob Beattie, Andrew Busker, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Karen Oberhauser, Alexis Paus, Stephen Sentoff, Joe Webb

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Glenn Teschendorf (Friends), Suzy Will-Wolf (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from November 22, 2019 with revisions was made by Batzli and seconded by Beattie. The revisions include fixing a spelling mistake and changing the following sentence from “Wyatt clarified that the Preserve cannot offer programming...” to “Wyatt clarified that the Preserve doesn’t have the capacity to offer programming...”. The motion passed unanimously.

White Oak Management at Frautschi Point (Adam Gundlach)

Oberhauser asked why the plan didn’t call for removal of the entire aspen clone. Gundlach said there’s been a back and forth with stakeholders. As a result, staff has decided to leave some big tooth aspen to contribute to tree diversity and as a teaching tool. Gundlach said it’s true that you’d normally remove the whole clone, more so when dealing with a prairie restoration. Normally cutting aspen or removing just a portion of a clone results in root suckering. However, DNR Forester Brad Hutnik, who looked at the site with Gundlach and Wyatt, said suckering may not be a big issue if enough apical dominance is left in the remaining stand. For now the Preserve will remove just the aspen directly impacting white oaks. Girdling is an option that was considered instead of cutting, but staff doesn’t want to create standing dead trees over trails that pose a hazard to visitors. Staff will continually assess the response to management.

Gundlach noted that 1 red oak is slated to come out of the area because it’s between 2 white oaks. He said the Preserve has healthy red oak populations elsewhere, but this is the only place in the Preserve with white oaks of this age class.

Gundlach said most of the debris from cutting will be removed by chipping or hauling away and/or burning the tree tops. He will ask FH King if they need aspen logs for oyster mushroom cultivation.

Batzli is glad there’s attention to this area with a forward-thinking plan. She would like to see the current distinct straight edge between the woods and the prairie softened.

Batzli also wanted to know if there was a management plan for the area around the water utility which is near this site. Wyatt said the City of Madison water utility leases the site from the UW, and they maintain the area above and around the large underground water tank by mowing. James announced a new agreement between the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), which is part of the State Lab of Hygiene, and the UW to have data collectors on the water utility site. The City of Madison has approved this use of the site which they lease. The Arboretum is also a collector site. Batzli said Biocore would be interested in the data generated by the collectors. The Committee is interested in a presentation on the project when Oberhauser can be present.

Review of the 2019 Draft Work Plan and Budget (Laura Wyatt for Gary Brown)

Work Plan:

Staff highlighted new additions/changes to the 2020 Work Plan.

Batzli asked if the work plan is a good place to highlight the partnership between the Preserve and the Biocore program on prairie management and coordination of prescribed burns and weed management. Wyatt agreed that it would be good to recognize the combined work of staff and the Biocore team. Wyatt said she'd draft language and pass it by Batzli before adding it to the work plan. Wyatt also suggested that there could be a short narrative article on Biocore in the Annual Report.

There was a discussion on next steps for the Strategic Plan and the role of the Preserve Committee (approval or discussion). Wyatt said she would get clarification from Gary Brown and let the Committee know.

Budget:

Wyatt highlighted changes to the 2020 Operating budget.

Under "MAINTENANCE" there has been an increase to cover the cost for servicing the pit toilets.

Under "EQUIP/INFRASTRUCTURE" and "Equipment" \$20,000 has been added for new a new Kubota vehicle to replace the existing one which has safety concerns.

Under "EQUIP/INFRASTRUCTURE" and "Site amenities" the \$28,000 designated last year for the gate repainting project did not proceed and has been carried over to 2020. \$50,000 has been designated for 2020 site amenities, as follows: \$22,000 gates, \$8,000 memorial bench, \$15,000 for fire circle #6 fire circle ring repair and additional stones or boulders along the stairs to the water, and \$5,000 for miscellaneous repairs.

Under "ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION" the "Veg. mgmt. contractor" line has been increased by \$15,000 for additional work in Eagle Heights Woods. The "Invasives Initiative" has been funded for another 4 years by an additional gift of \$125,000.

Under "OUTREACH/EDUCATION" \$80,000 has been added to "Special Projects" to hire a consultant for the Facilities Master Plan update. The \$10,000 designated in 2019 was to cover the cost of the strategic planning consultants.

Batzli wondered how long it's been since the 101 budget was adjusted, especially in light of enrollment expansion. According to Wyatt it was in 2010 when the University started to fund 3 full-time positions. She reminded the committee that the Preserve does not get any student segregated fees. Batzli thinks that with more students and more pressure on the site maybe it's time for an expanded ask. Beattie suggested the Preserve do a presentation to ASM saying, here's what we do/offer students and we don't get money for this. Paus said ASM is generally interested in issues with an environmental bent. Wyatt reminded the committee that in addition to providing places for respite and recreational uses for the entire student body the Preserve also provides environmental services to the UW.

Physical Plant Grounds continues to provide \$60,000 of in-kind services for "General Maintenance Services". In 2020, the Preserve will enter into a more formal service agreement.

Staff Reports

- 1) Director Report (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 12, 2019
- 2) Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 12, 2019
- 3) Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 12, 2019

The Natatorium and Vet Med projects are still in the design phase. James will bring in conceptual drawings of the projects when they are available. Both projects are adjacent to Willow Creek. The Natatorium design is taking into account views of Willow Creek, the mounds, and the lake. The Northwest corner of the building is “cut off” to allow that area some space. For the Vet Med project, the design shows the road along the Willow Creek Corridor pushed back 30-40 feet to give more space on the east side of the creek.

Lights have not yet been installed at UW Lot 130.

- 4) Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 12, 2019
- 5) Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 12, 2019

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Steve Sentoff)
See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – December 12, 2019

Adjournment

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

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator