



**Lakeshore Nature Preserve**  
FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee**  
**Friday October 20, 2023**  
**10:30am to noon**  
**Remote Zoom meeting**  
**Notes**

**Present**

Rob Beattie, Claudia Guzman, Rhonda James, Cole Koffron, Missy Nergard, Elmo Rawling, Will Vuyk

**Also Present**

Adam Gundlach, Sara Hotchkiss, Bryn Scriver, Laura Wyatt,

**Minutes**

The minutes from May 12, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent by those present, but we did not have quorum.

**Update on April letter to Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin, Interim Provost Eric Wilcots,  
Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Robert G. Cramer –Rob Beattie**

Rob Beattie received an email from Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Rob Cramer during this meeting acknowledging receipt of the letter and stating, “we will be working with FP&M, the Sustainability Office, and the Preserve to determine the likely operational needs now and when the new Lakeshore Preserve Center is completed.”

Before receiving the email, we discussed inviting someone from administration to a future Preserve Committee meeting. Elmo Rawling suggested inviting David Murphy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance, who is on the leadership team with Rob Cramer, especially if the budgetary element is what we are most interested in.

Missy Nergard stated we want to raise the profile of what’s going on in the Preserve, not just the budget considerations and suggested Cindy Torstveit has the most influence in this space as the AVC for FP&M.

The Preserve is a public facing aspect of campus and is heavily used. Its ongoing operations and maintenance should be seen as a priority.

Laura Wyatt noted that a fulltime provost has been appointed since the letter was sent and we need to make sure the new provost is aware of the Preserve. Rob Beattie said historically it was the provost who charged the Preserve with work and the letter points this out.

Rob Beattie plans to invite the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration or their representative to come to a meeting to discuss current thoughts on Preserve and the Preserve going forward.

**Staff Reports**

1) Director of Sustainability (Missy Nergard)

Missy met with the new Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications Diana Harvey to talk about the Chancellors initiatives that focus on a sense of belonging and sense of environmental sustainability and how they will merge in the Chancellors communication platform. VC Harvey’s team will take lead on what the

communications framework looks like for the institution, but environmental sustainability and what that looks like in the Preserve will fall under our team. No dates on when the Chancellor will make these announcements.

AVC Cindy Torstveit has been learning how much it takes to run the Preserve (the accounts, donor funds, history of donor funds, restrictions on land donations, etc...) Thank you to Rhonda and Laura in particular for getting all the information together.

2) Interim Director (Laura Wyatt)

*See Preserve Staff Reports –Oct. 20, 2023*

3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)

*See Preserve Staff Reports –Oct. 20, 2023*

4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)

*See Preserve Staff Reports – Oct. 20, 2023*

5) Volunteers and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)

*See Preserve Staff Reports – Oct. 20, 2023*

### **Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report –Will Vuyk**

*See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Report—Oct. 20, 2023*

### **Review of Stakeholder meeting and 3-month status report – Laura Wyatt**

The meeting was attended by staff and 6 stakeholders. We would like to get more participation. When polled, the stakeholders were split on whether they would prefer an in-person or virtual meeting. Staff went through highlights of the workplan and asked for suggestions and comments from attendees. November 1 is the deadline for submitting project proposals for 2024. Staff will present a draft workplan to the Preserve Committee at the January or February meeting.

### **Master Plan Update – Rhonda James**

Rhonda reviewed the highlights-talking points that came out of the master plan process including project goals and core values, which the Preserve Committee were instrumental for creating. She gave a brief overview of the process including inventory and analysis, issues and opportunities, and recommendation. She also showed a list of all the meetings and people who had input during the process. All of this is available on the project website.

Rhonda said that moving into implementation we need to set priorities. This group had discussions early on about criteria and some things that rose to top were level of impact, improving environmental resiliency, and supporting education, research and outreach. High priorities are the outreach center, vegetation management plans, bench and furnishing coordination, addressing existing hazards (trees, trails, shoreline), shoreline and trail surfaces, and comprehensive signage study.

Rob Beattie asked how the Master Plan process fit with budgeting process? Laura Wyatt said that along with our work plan we also work on budget. Traditionally there is a management side of the budget (typically \$80,000-150,000) and a capital side of the budget. Both are funded by gift funds only. For example, the Master Plan update was paid for using \$80,000 in gift funds, and the refurbished iron gates at the entrance to Picnic Point were paid for using \$60,000 in gift funds. Capital items paid for with gift funds will be teased apart in our budget and will be shared with AVC Torstveit. Laura is not sure how many administrators are aware of how much was spent in past since it's something they haven't been involved with. Also, while the UW finance dept provides fiduciary oversight they too have not been involved in what the budgets contain. AVC Torstveit has asked for that and we will share so she understands how much money has come into the university.

### **Outreach Center Update – Rhonda James**

We have completed the Advanced or pre-planning project with our consulting team. The next step is sometime in the future, but we don't know the timeline. You can find more information including some images of the proposed outreach center on the Preserve website. The main goal is to provide space to support hands-on experiential learning and expand the Preserve's research, teaching, and outreach capacity. The project also has lofty sustainability goals including becoming the first Living Building Challenge CORE in the state.

### **Student Engagement Grants – Bryn Scriver**

Last year's education subcommittee members agreed to review proposals again this year (thank you!), but we could use one more committee member on the team. Please reach out to Bryn Scriver if you are interested. The subcommittee will review proposals that come in before or on March 1 then meet to make recommendations on which to fund. Scriver will send out last year's request for proposals for everyone to review in the next week. The committee will be needed to help promote the grant opportunity.

### **Adjournment**

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator