



Lakeshore Nature Preserve

FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Friday May 12, 2023

7:30am to 9:00am

Remote Zoom meeting

Approved Minutes

Present

Rob Beattie, Claudia Guzman, Kelly Ignatoski, Cole Koffron, Missy Nergard, Karen Oberhauser, Anna Pidgeon, Elmo Rawling, Evie Sellers, Will Vuyk, Kyle Webert,

Also Present

Trenton Bauer, Ann Burgess, Adam Gundlach, Sara Hotchkiss, Cole Roeker, Bryn Scriver, Amanda Shalit, Laura Wyatt

Minutes

The minutes from April 14, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent.

Old Business –Committee Letter of Support for Preserve (Rob Beattie)

The letter of support has been sent out. Committee members got a copy of the letter in their meeting support materials. We do not expect a direct response, since we did not ask for replies. We know if was received. Dean Robbins of the Nelson Institute delivered a paper copy to the provost himself.

Wyatt suggested that the committee institutionalize a little more formal outreach at the academic or institutional level. She suggested that some committee members meet this summer to talk about what that could look like and bring it back to the committee in the fall (e.g., members provide info about the Preserve at their department meetings). Beattie said he could see a short 5-minute report out from the letter to the Faculty Senate or the Academic Staff Assembly.

Elmo Rawling said he is the outgoing chair of the University Budget Committee that reports to the Faculty Senate annually. They are putting together a list of topics to share at the meeting next year. It's an advisory group that reports annually to the Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs and invites guests to talk about budget across the university.

Beattie said there is a nice drone picture of the Preserve on the UW-Madison website but thought that the fact that this is a part of the UW with a budget and staff that does things is probably lost on most people. Adam Gundlach said the Preserve is featured in the scroll 3 times.

Claudia Guzman said to contact Danielle Saunders, Vice Chancellor Executive Assistant, to get on Student Affairs Council agenda. They meet monthly.

2022 Student Engagement Grant Report -Cole Roecker and Trenton Bauer, Audubon Society, UW-Madison
– Tree Shallow Nests Box Project -Supervisor: Dr. Anna Pidgeon

Members mounted 5 nest boxes this spring for tree swallows which are a declining population of birds with 2 goals: 1) to help a declining population of birds and 2) to spur engagement in students to pay attention to efforts to help those birds.

Members assembled nest boxes and put predator exclusion cages on 2 of the 5 boxes and baffles instead of cages on the other 3. They want to see which work better for predator deterrent. The boxes were installed in early spring in Picnic Point Marsh. The boxes went up just in time for the first returning tree swallows.

Next phase of project is engagement and outreach. Student engagement will include observation of the boxes during weekly bird hikes, brood monitoring during nesting season, cleaning and maintenance. Community engagement will include a reporting form on the ASUM website for anyone to report tree swallow activity and outreach to local clubs. Already 4 out of 5 boxes are showing good nesting type activity.

ASUM started in Fall 2020. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been really supportive of ASUM through student engagement grants to purchase a collection of binoculars to loan out and use every weekend with guided walks. As a result, we have had a massive spike in engagement. The binoculars are essential to bringing students into realm of bird watching.

Work with Bryn Scriver to help get the word out about observation reporting.

2022 Student Engagement Grant Report – Amanda Shalit, student – Pollen quality affecting bumble bee foraging patterns in restored prairies – with Michelle Chung, Stephanie McFarlane, Jade Kochanski, Claudio Gratton, Ellen Damschen

- Bumble bees are generalist pollinators who declines have potentially devastating economic and environmental repercussions.
- In experimental settings, bumble bees have been shown to prefer pollen with a higher protein to lipid ration (P:L) but this hasn't been field tested.
- It is unknown how bumblebee foraging preferences might change across a colony's life cycle.

Research questions:

- 1) In restored prairies, do bumble bees visit flowers with higher P:L pollen more frequently than flowers with lower P:L pollen?
- 2) Do bumble foraging habits change over the course of the colony's life cycle?

Spring 2022:

- Bumble bee queen surveys conducted
- Pollen collected from spring blooms

Summer 2022

- Floral transects and bumble bee worker surveys conducted
- Pollen collected from summer blooming species

Fall and Spring 2022:

- Pollen samples weighed
- Bradford protein (blue) and modified Van Handel Day lipid (pink) assays conducted in lab

Still sorting through large complex data set. Have started seeing some trends. If bumble bees didn't have preferences, then bee visits would match floral abundance and they do not. We can see huge discrepancies that show bees are making choices in the field, but is it due to P:L ratio or other factors? Further pollen collection and assaying is necessary to find more concrete relationships between visitation and P:L.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Vuyk)

Vuyk presented an altered report from the Friends 22nd Annual Meeting on Wednesday April 12. In 2022 the Friends got about 660 people out in the Preserve in through 30 different field trips. In 2022 the Friends contributed \$7758.08 for the Prairie Partners Summer Interns, \$4000 for a Day of the Badger matching gift, and \$1200 to purchase plants for the Friends spring planting event. Recent and upcoming events include the garlic mustard pull on May 6 and the Spring planting event on May 13. The Friends also participated in the Bird and Nature Fest at Warner Park on April 23. The Friends also coordinate several citizen science projects: Bluebird Trail, Clean Lakes Alliance lake monitoring, Friends of Amphibians, Purple Martin house, Snake Search! Ten new poetry stops will be added to the Preserve Audio Trail. Retiring board members are Nancy Breden, Kelly Kearns, Paul Quinlan, and Cole Roecker. New board members are Dr Ingrid Jordon-Thaden, Michelle Chung, Mason Polencheck, and Yara Al-Rayyan.

Progress updates on Master Plan Project and Outreach Center Advanced Plan Master Plan Project Update Review (Rhonda James)

The final draft Master Plan will be posted for final comments very soon. The Outreach Center Advanced Plan should be finished this week, and Laura Wyatt and Missy Nergard have a meeting on May 22 with the Associate Vice Chancellor Facilities Planning & Management.

Staff Reports

- 1) Interim Director (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – May 124, 2023
- 2) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – May 12, 2023
- 3) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – May 12, 2023

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator