University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Monday April 17, 2017
9:00-10:30AM
Union South, Traditions Room
Meeting Notes
(No quorum therefore no action)

Present
Gary Brown, David Drake, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Gisela Kutzbach, Donna Paulnock, Glen Stanosz, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present
Kris Ackerbauer (FP&M Physical Plant), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes
No quorum; action on meeting minutes from March 31, 2017 will be tabled until the May 8 meeting.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 17, 2017

There are plans to remove parking lot 129 from near the University Bay Marsh and combine it with parking lot 130 on the west side of University Bay Drive.

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 17, 2017

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 17, 2017

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 17, 2017

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 17, 2017

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Gisela Kutzbach)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – April 17, 2017

Presentation on Amynthas (Jumping Worm) and the Preserve (Bryn Scriver)

See "Management Plan for Addressing Jumping Worms (Amynthas spp.) in the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve"

Student Engagement Grant Presentation—UW Urban Canid Project (David Drake)

The UW Urban Canid project grew out of a call from the former Preserve Field Manager (Cathie Bruner) about four years ago who had questions and concerns from Preserve visitors about coyotes seen in the Preserve. The first coyote captured and collared in the Preserve is still alive and the collar is still working.

Objectives of the Urban Canid project include:

1) Interspecific interaction (coyote and fox)
2) Understand urban canid health
3) Engage public

Project boundaries include the area of Madison encompassing the UW-Madison campus, west to Owen Conservation Park, and south to the UW Arboretum.

In general, they have found that coyotes are more concentrated; they stay in and move between the urban greenspaces. Red fox will move greater distances in very developed landscapes.

Fox and coyote will overlap a little in space but not usually in time. However, the study has documented a couple instances of temporal overlap including a fox and coyote hunting the same field and a coyote repeatedly visiting a fox den while it was occupied by a vixen and her kits to steal food left by the male fox and a helper fox. In the entire 2-week period that the coyote was visiting the den the fox never felt threatened enough to move the kits to another den. This coexistence between fox and coyotes in the urban area is thought to be due to an abundance of food and habitat; they can share resources instead of competing for them.

Drake wants new collars that can track animals every hour. With more animals collared and more data they can get more information on how the species interact.

The UW Urban Canid project has over 1,000 volunteers; it engages 50-60 student volunteers from Wildlife Ecology and the Vet School. Vet students get experience drawing blood and take other health metrics from trapped animals.

The project also engages the public through 20 educational talks per year, the iNaturalist app (600 unique individuals have reported canid sightings over the last 3 years), their Facebook page (2,700 followers), and by allowing the public to accompany researchers to check traps.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist