



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday November 6, 2020
8:00-9:30am
Remote WebEx meeting
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

David Bart, Janet Batzli, Rob Beattie, Gary Brown, Andrew Busker, Sara Hotchkiss, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Karen Oberhauser, Anna Pidgeon, Stephen Sentoff, Joe Webb

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from October 16, 2020 was made by Beattie and seconded by Pidgeon. The motion was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

- 1) Administration (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 6, 2020
- 2) Program and Operations (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 6, 2020
- 3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 6, 2020
- 4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 6, 2020
- 5) Volunteers and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 6, 2020

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Stephen Sentoff)

See Friends Preserve Staff Reports – November 6, 2020

Karen Oberhauser noted that she really likes the Friends of the Preserve phenology calendar and thinks it's something the Arboretum could adapt for their use.

Promoting Student Engagement Grants (Rob Beattie)

Beattie announced the Student Engagement Grants at the last Nelson Institute faculty/staff meeting. He is happy to meet with any committee members to brainstorm ideas for further promoting the grants. He feels there is a need for faculty and staff to champion these grants and talk them up in a systematic way. The Preserve staff currently sends out the announcement to an exhaustive list of email contacts across the university. Faculty and staff can put a personal touch on it as they forward to their colleagues and students. Also, students really need support from faculty and staff to write a compelling proposal.

2021 Project Proposals (Andrew Busker)

The Preserve received two project proposals from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve—1) Prairie Partners Intern Program and 2) Friends Wildflower Planting Festival 2021. Both of these projects were proposed in 2020 but could not proceed due to COVID-19. The hope is that with guidelines and precautions in place that these projects can proceed in 2021 following any university safety protocols at that time. Both come with funding from the Friends as well as volunteer hours. The Planning and Implementation subcommittee recommends approval of both projects. With the motion from the subcommittee, a second is not required. The motion to accept the proposed projects passed unanimously.

Master Plan update

The Preserve needs to confirm funding is available for the anticipated \$80,000 project. The Preserve will be submitting a request for funding support to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The remaining will be paid by through the Preserve Stewardship account which is comprised of gift funds. To note, the 2006 Master Plan was also paid for with gift funds. Consultants could be brought on board in early 2021 with the process being completed hopefully at the end of 2021 or the beginning of 2022. According to Rhonda James, the Preserve has already developed a draft understanding of what we want the consultants to do, step-by-step, including when the Preserve Committee would be consulted and updated.

Care needs to be taken to schedule public sessions when students are in session and can participate.

Beattie said he's seen participation go up in general with virtual meetings and events. He wants to know if the Preserve has the ability to do a blended meeting, both in-person and virtually.

Hotchkiss wants to know if the Preserve Committee can have synchronous and asynchronous collaborations where they can come together virtually to brainstorm and converse around a map and then work with the map between meetings as well. Brown said he has used a virtual design process through a web-based software product called MURAL. It includes the ability to add photos, text, maps, and anyone in the meeting can scribble on things. James will add this ability to the list of options for the consultants to consider in order to assure broad participation from our various stakeholders.

Batzli thinks a walking tour would be good to see what has been done in the past and what could be done in the future.

The 2006 Master Plan is a good starting point for the 2021 plan. For example, much of the site analysis is still relevant. The 2006 plan will be reviewed to see what is still viable, and what needs to be revised or reviewed.

Long-term permit report – Update on Wisconsin's Bats and White-Nose Syndrome (Heather Kaarakka- Conservation Biologist WDNR)

Kaarakka gave a brief overview of Wisconsin bat species and White Nose Syndrome (WNS) and its impacts. The large bat house on Picnic Point houses little brown bats. It was installed around 2008. Visual emergence monitoring by volunteers began in 2011. The Picnic Point bat roost has been part of several important research projects. Long-term monitoring helps them understand declines in colonies in response to WNS.

The USGS Wildlife Health Lab studied the Picnic Point bat roost for occurrence of WNS fungus. They swabbed bat wings and collected guano. There was genetic evidence of the fungus into August and

juveniles tested positive. There was decreasing detectable fungus as the summer progressed. Questions arose as to whether the bat house acted as a reservoir for the fungus and if the fungus was viable.

Banding was conducted to track individuals across space and time. Several individuals were recovered within the same summer and several years later.

Data logger backpacks were tested at the Picnic Point site to help researchers in the western US where hibernacula are difficult to find. Data logger backpacks record throughout the winter and are recovered in the spring. Two backpacks were recovered from Picnic Point. Researchers are waiting on the results.

Picnic Point bat house conditions were studied to find out if bat houses can get too hot for bats. Data loggers placed in the house record the temperature every hour. Temperatures in the Picnic Point bat house did not exceed 30 °C (86°F), whereas other bat houses reach above 40 °C (104 °F).

Daily bat counts show that the number of bats in a roost can vary daily depending on reproductive status and perhaps temperature. A thermal camera on a timer recorded daily nightly emergence.

Results from studies at the Picnic Point bat house show an 83% decline from pre-WNS counts. WNS fungus can persist in bat houses and in guano into late summer, however the viability of the virus is unknown. Banded individuals continue to be recaptured suggesting survivors. Bats roost in a range of temperatures in summer.

Karakka told Batzli that students can contribute through citizen science-based monitoring projects (i.e. roost count opportunities). Karakka told Gundlach that bats need relatively old growth forest—big trees. The Picnic Point bats have good foraging over the marshes and along the lakeshore. She will consider what management should and shouldn't happen directly around the Picnic Point bat house.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator