



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

**Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee**  
**Friday April 22, 2022**  
**1:30 – 3:00 pm**  
**Remote WebEx meeting**  
**Minutes APPROVED**

**Present**

Janet Batzli, Rob Beattie, Gary Brown, Rhonda James, Cole Koffron, Alexis Paus, Anna Pidgeon, Evie Sellers, Kathy Cramer,

**Also Present**

Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), David Drake (Forest and Wildlife Ecology), Morgan Farmer (Forest and Wildlife Ecology), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Sara Hotchkiss (Botany), Seth McGee (Biocore), Evan Peepo (Audubon Society, UW-Madison), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Sydney Stroschein (Audubon Society, UW-Madison), Ali Thompson (Forest and Wildlife Ecology), Will Vuyk (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve), Joye Zhou (Audubon Society, UW-Madison)

**Student Engagement 2021 Grant presentation;** Beginning Birding Educational Series: Using Birdwatching to Encourage Environmental Awareness and Action (Peepo, Stroschein, and Zhou - Audubon Society, UW-Madison)

- Used 2021 Student Engagement Grant to purchase 14 binoculars for use during guided bird hikes in the Preserve
- Hosted weekly guided bird hikes from 9-18-21 to 11-20-21
- Hikes geared toward beginning birders; Each walk started with binocular intro/practice
- Walks 1-2 hours long
- Visit Picnic Point, Biocore Prairie, Picnic Point Marsh, Bills Woods
- Encouraged participants to upload photos/videos to shared folder
- Nearly all hikes were at capacity (15 participants)
- Recruited participants through word of mouth and Student Org Fair
- Participants asked if they were likely to go birding again or be more aware of birds and large majority said yes
- New member experience—visited Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Station
- ASUM awarded 2022 Student Engagement Grant to build tree swallow nest boxes

**Minutes**

The minutes from March 25, 2022 were approved by consent.

**Staff Updates**

1) Director (Gary Brown)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – April 22, 2022*

2) Assistant Director (Laura Wyatt)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – April 22, 2022*

3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – April 22, 2022*

4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – April 22, 2022*

5) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – April 22, 2022*

**Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report** (Will Vuyk)  
*See Friends Report – April 22, 2022*

### **Preserve Master Plan Update** (Rhonda James)

Input process:

- Meetings
- Comments- email, online, in-person; All comments taken into consideration as consultant formulates draft recommendations into final recommendations.
- Final draft presented next fall

Core Values:

- Education and Research –biggest value as it supports UW Mission

Draft recommendations:

#### 1) Habitat communities

- Targets
  - Equating to WDNR community descriptions
  - variety and diversity of vegetation as well as management techniques
  - not eliminating all non-oak species
  - management plan will be developed for each area as we move forward from Master Plan
- Time frame
  - MP is a 10-year document, but it takes 50+ years to move toward targets
  - Gradual changes over long time frames
  - Adaptive management
  - Natural communities not static and will change over time, managed or not
- Comments
  - Pidgeon - Glad using WDNR community descriptions; Savanna and open grown oaks offer many resources to migratory birds from bird ecologist perspective; Supportive of general trends/suggestions.
  - Batzli – suggest reaching out to faculty on campus with expertise on savanna and grasslands, especially climate change research; Claudio Gratton and Damschen labs

#### 2) Facility recommendations Capital Improvements Plan

- Removals: beach house, relocate fire circle 1, physical plant storage, lot 34
- Repairs: overlook at charter street on Lakeshore Path, hand pump on Point, fire circles 4-5, overlook at class of 1918 marsh, bridge at south end Class of 1918 Marsh
- Additions: Preserve outreach center, community shelter near gardens, Willow Creek Master Plan, Charter St staircase, bike parking at bottom of Charter St on Lakeshore Path, overlook at Raymer's Cove, fire circle 1, benches, signs
- Comments

- Beattie – long-term concern of staff is for offices to be closer to the Preserve, but that may be years down the road. Can plan address the interim to find space office space for staff closer to the Preserve?
  - Brown anticipates a center being in operation in about 3 years.
- 3) Trails
- Howard Temin Lakeshore Path: Paved and unpaved sections remain same as now
  - Picnic Point main path: Reconstruct, keep as limestone screenings with good base under it; at the burial mounds we will need to look at the detail of what to do for not disturbing that area (e.g. boardwalk)
  - Class of 1918 Marsh: Rebuild
  - Muir Woods: Remove stairs and upgrade other trails to carry this traffic
  - Comments
    - Trails to soil pits in Bills Woods will not be removed, just redundant trails
    - Batzli – like recommendations in general; is plan to leave current asphalt trail south of Caretaker’s Woods as is?
    - James – needs to look more closely at this specific trail; if it’s not dangerous the asphalt will just turn to gravel
- 4) General comments:
- Beattie – educational commitment weaves its way through plan, but should the plan have an educational section in it?
  - A master plan is focused on physical setting for educational activities to happen; strategic plan dealt more with education and at that time we reached out educators; Preserve doesn’t have an educational program, but we facilitate the use of the Preserve for education; Through our permit process we look at how the Preserve is being used for education; Preserve staff is constantly working with educators; they are our primary audience, and we also consider community input.
  - Batzli – Its more than just permit holders and who’s in the Preserve now; need to consult with experts and get their ideas on this; need to reach out to them as they may or may not go to the Master Plan meetings.

**Student Engagement 2021 Grant presentation - Wild and Domestic Canid Activity in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve (Ali Thompson)**

- Off leash dogs may interfere with wildlife including red fox and coyotes
- Off leash dogs can be a nuisance for Preserve visitors
- Study objectives:
  - How abundant are domestic dogs?
  - How many are on leash versus off leash?
  - Which times have the most activity?
  - Do they interfere with red foxes and coyotes?
- Set up 2 motion-activated camera traps purchased with Student engagement Grant funds and moved them every 2 weeks covering 6 different locations during study period; Cameras focused on trail intersections.
- In addition to camera trapping, they conducted outreach on 4 days in mid-July at Picnic Point main entrance, Frautschi Point and Raymer’s Cove to explain importance of leash policy and general information on fox and coyotes.
- They found fewer off leash dogs after they performed outreach, but they also saw fewer on leash dogs too.
- Summary
  - Little human-coyote-fox overlap; most potential at sunrise
  - On and off leash dogs have lots of overlap with each other and potential wild canids have little undisturbed time in the Preserve

- Coyote conflict risk for off leash dogs
  - Off leash dogs pose management problem
- Management suggestions and future research
  - Targeted outreach between sunrise and noon
  - Seasonal differences?
  - Vegetation density?
  - Prey species?
  - Breeding and hunting?
- Wyatt asked Thompson if she had some ideas for ways Preserve staff can effectively approach/educate people with off leash dogs (a verbal or written message, where to find off leash dog parks, social media?) What to do about repeat offenders (ticketing?)
- Drake recognized Morgan Farmer's important role in mentoring Ali Thompson

## **Adjourn**

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator