

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Open Space and Environmental Management Committee

Calumet County Park Coffee Tree Lodge
April 11, 2018

Committee Members Present:

DuWayne Federwitz, Chair Waupaca County
 Bob Schmeichel, Vice Chair Winnebago County
 Ed Kleckner Calumet County
 Dan Rettler Outagamie County
 Larry Timm Waushara County

Committee Members Excused:

Jeremy Johnson (perm alt. for Elizabeth Moses) Menominee County

Staff Present:

Eric Fowle Executive Director
 Scott Konkle Mining Reclamation Specialist
 Todd Verboomen Associate Environmental Planner
 Trish Nau Principal Park and Recreation Planner

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair DuWayne Federwitz facilitated the meeting and everyone went around the table and introduced themselves.

Mr. Federwitz called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

2. Statement of Compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 Regarding Open Meetings Requirements

It was determined that the meeting was in compliance with Wisconsin § Chapter 19, Subchapter V, Section 19.84 regarding Open Meeting Requirements and a quorum was present.

3. The pledge of allegiance was said to start the meeting.
4. Approval of Agenda & Motion to deviate

A motion to approve the agenda and to deviate as needed was made by Mr. Rettler and seconded by Mr. Schmeichel, passing unanimously.

5. Public / Guest Comment

Mr. Adam Backus, Calumet County Parks Director gave a history and host report for the park.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. Approval of January 10, 2018 Open Space & Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings (*Attachment #1*)

A motion to approve the summary of proceedings was made by Mr. Schmiechel with a second by Mr. Rettler. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Fowle gave information on the Grant Award for the Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Grant through Bay-Lake RPC and GLRI. The grant received 40 applicants with 12 being from the ECWRPC region. A reviewal process will take place and the winners will be notified.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) Water Management Issues

- i) Lower Fox River TMDL: Mr. Verboomen stated that the group had a meeting and the progress of getting all the phosphorus out of there would take 70 years but as time goes on it should get better. This will take best practices and control of the source of pollutants into the watershed.
- ii) Weigh in on the Winnebago Waterways Update Mr. Verboomen gave an update that his involvement has been less at this point. Mr. Schmeichel is now part of the Steering committee that will lead the effort. He gave a quick report and stated that there will be a meeting on April 13 in Fond du Lac. Mr. Verboomen stated that the Strategic Plan is in place and really hasn't changed so they should use the information.
- iii) White Clay Lake, Shawano County Lake Planning Grant: Mr. Verboomen gave an update the Lake Management Plan stating the process is now moving along. Involvement of the committee is mostly farmers. Steering Committee meetings (3-4) are looking at goals and strategies. Getting input has been challenging.
- iv) A Coastal Collaboration for Healthy Lake Michigan: Mr. Verboomen gave a brief update on the status of the Coastal Collaboration project's survey. The group is marketing with a Lake Michigan Coastal Pledge by the Counties to keep the lake healthy. The stakeholders are still working on coastal management issues they hired a consultant to come up with a tag line and strategies to get a consistent message out basin wide. Sweetwater is driving the coastal management effort and will host a conference. Mr. Fowle relayed the dangers of the chemicals in asphalt and runoff of road salt. A mini-conference will be hosted in Green Bay with BLRPC in October.

Recreation Planning Activities Update

Ms. Nau gave a brief update of the Winnebago County Park Economic Impact Studies. There are three reports that are being written to analyze the value of parks in the County. The first one was completed in 2015 and focused on trails and all parks, the second was completed in 2017 concentrating just on Community Park and the third is in progress dealing with the visitors to the

Sunnyview Expo Center. The reports will be used to show the value that recreational facilities have to the local economy and to leverage for more updates.

Ms. Nau also relayed to the Committee on updates to the 2018 Park Plans. She also mentioned some conflicts between the Town and County for the Town of Dayton's CORP. A new park creation by a non-profit group and having the Town of Dayton adopt the CORP as an official document. This is still pending as the Town Board tabled the item and will review it again in May. Plans in progress are the City of Clintonville CORP, Village of Oakfield, Winnebago County and the City of Menasha.

NR-135 Metallic Mining Program

Mr. Konkle stated that he approved a sand and gravel site in the Town of Wittenberg. He gave the operators their annual reports on the fee structures as well as the DNR. Mr. Konkle is working on the Financial Insurance updates for the operators. These are projections as far as how much they do mine over the year.

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway:

Mr. Fowle relayed to the Committee in Mr. Baron's absence that on-going efforts include an App and online mapping portal, board representation, and assisting with navigational aids. These are always a cause of concern on who puts these out in the spring and takes them down in fall. The app will be used for repair and maintenance on kayak launches. The non-profit board is dwindling at this point and trying to sustain the parkway as they try to get in new board members. It has been challenging to keep it going. There could be a small mapping contract with FRSNA. Many things along the Fox River as far as trails and visitors centers are being developed.

Niagara Escarpment Update

Mr. Fowle gave an update on the group and stated not much has been happening over the summer as they are suffering from some capacity issues. They have a little bit of budget to help with some branding and fund raising on projects. The group is looking also at staffing and interns to help out. They will be refocusing on the geopark concept and try to recapitalize on this. The network is looking at more of an international focus with the geotourism project with the hiring of a geotourism person to produce a program.

County Round Table Discussion:

Items of importance from committee members regarding their perspective counties consisted of:

Waushara County – Mr. Timm stated that new administration is in effect at the county. Out of 11 board members there will four new ones so could be some changes. There was a lot of opposition over the ATV's on County Roads to get to off road connections. A resolution was written in January and lost 6-5.

Outagamie County – Mr. Rettler stated that there were two board members in opposition but both of them won their seats. There will be six new members coming in.

Winnebago County - Mr. Schmiechel relayed that it was a very close race and a flip of the coin to determine one seat.

Waupaca County – Mr. Federwitz stated that they will have six new members coming to the board as some moved out of the area. The new County Garage was another item that was approved.

Calumet County – Mr. Kleckner stated the only contentious item was the sales tax increase. One board member resigned and the other decided not to run. Out of 21 the county only has 2 new members. Mr. Fowle relayed that Calumet County will be getting an additional Commissioner assigned since the population is over 50,000 now.

Next Meeting Time & Agenda

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.** with the location TBD.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Schmiechel and seconded by Mr. Timm. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting dates: This Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon unless otherwise noted. Locations may vary by season and ECWRPC conference room availability.

Tentative Upcoming 2018 Meeting Dates:

July 11, 2018 & October 10, 2018