



SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Open Space and Environmental Management Committee

Matsche Farms, Wittenberg, WI

October 10, 2018

Committee Members Present:

DuWayne Federwitz, Chair Waupaca County
 Bob Schmeichel, Vice Chair Winnebago County
 Ed Kleckner, alternate for Hope Karth Calumet County
 Jeremy Johnson (perm alt. for Elizabeth Moses) Menominee County
 Larry Timm Waushara County
 Dan Rettler Outagamie County

Staff Present:

Eric Fowle Executive Director
 Todd Verboomen Associate 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 deferred to the Quarterly Commission meeting per the Chair.

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. Timm, passing unanimously.

5. Public / Guest Comment

Heather Matsche, Public Relations Specialist was present to give an overview about the Matsche Farm operations. She explained the business end of things and that there were over 5,000 cows on the farm including cash cropping and approximately 50 employees who run the farm. Mrs. Matsche also showed a short YouTube video of the farm in action.

Announcements:

- a) Mr. Fowle gave an update on the 2018 RPC & DNR Great Lakes Basin Tree Planting Grant Awards and the award winners. There will also be applications for 2019.
- b) Mr. Verboomen gave a synopsis of the upcoming Oct. 26 EC/Bay-Lake Mini-conference on PAH's. This will be held the morning of the Quarterly Meeting and will highlight Clean Wisconsin on petroleum based products as well as Sea Grant on green infrastructure ordinances.
- c) Mr. Fowle also relayed to the Committee that the DNR will be hosting tree planning workshops.
- d) Ms. Nau noted that today was National Walk to a Park Day, 10-10, and encouraged commissioners to take a 10 minute walk to their favorite park.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 6. Approval of July 27, 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. Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Review of 2019 Technical Assistance Project Requests -

Mr. Fowle handed out a table of 2019 technical assistance projects that are probable and potential. With the new fees in place, the Commission received about 20 requests, half of what is normally sent in. This will cover a big part of the budget windfall and weed out the serious projects from those that are just asking for assistance because it is available.

Review of 2019 Work Program Elements 1400 and 1600 –

Mr. Fowle directed the committee to the two elements for new and carryover projects in the upcoming work program. He went through each element and explained new, carryovers and completions.

STAFF ITEMS:

Water Management Issues

- i) Lower Fox River TMDL: Mr. Verboomen stated that TMDL study and plan is in the works through the WDNR. Comments are now closed and timeline to completion is unknown at this time.
- ii) Weigh in on the Winnebago Waterways Update: Mr. Verboomen gave a quick report and stated that the Lake Management Plan is nearing completion and should be wrapping up by year's end or early next year according to Ted Johnson.

- iii) White Clay Lake, Shawano County Lake Planning Grant: The planning committee approved the draft grant application with much liberation. This will move forward according to Mr. Verboomen's diligence in working with the committee to agree on necessary items.
- iv) Lake Michigan Stakeholders: Mr. Verboomen's stated that the full meeting for the stakeholders will be held in Milwaukee this year.
- v) Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition Washington D.C. Fly-In: In asking to attend the fly-in, Mr. Verboomen stated that the team was impressed by his knowledge of "place making" in his area of the Great Lakes and engaged in learning activities with the coalition.

Groundwater Management Issues:

Mr. Fowle relayed to the committee the importance of monitoring the aquifers within the Fox Cities area. He connected with a professor from UWGB on developing a program to see how the draw down is affecting the Fox Cities water supply. Well monitoring units are looking at being purchased to measure this affect and a study to determine what needs to be done to improve the situation. This could be an upcoming 2019 work program item and asked the committee if they had any objection as well as determining this worthwhile project. The committee agreed it was important.

Recreation Planning Activities Update

Ms. Nau relayed to the Committee on updates to the 2018 Park Plans. The CORP's in progress are the City of Clintonville, Village of Oakfield, Winnebago County and the City of Menasha. The first three communities are in the process of being completed by years end or early in spring of 2019. The City of Menasha as just started their process and is looking at getting an on-line survey released soon.

Ms. Nau also stated she has been working on park concepts for the Village of Bonduel, Village of Hilbert, and Village of Plainfield. She has also started work on Miller Park "On the Fox" for the City of Omro per a quick request for a grant application submittal in early 2019.

NR-135 Metallic Mining Program

In Mr. Konkle's absence, Mr. Fowle handed out a memo of program activities. Mr. Konkle continues to inspect sites and review of big scale reclamation operations. He looks at vegetative cover on reclaimed areas this time of year. Also working on the 2019 budget and scheduling meetings with the P & Z committees. , he is still charging \$40 per acre fees. He will be attending the Non-metallic Mining Advisory committee on October 18, 2018 in Madison.

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway:

In Mr. Baron's absence, Ms. Nau relayed to the Committee that work continues on a redevelopment plan map along the Fox River. A storymap has been created using ArcGIS Online to look at highlights along the river. They are looking at reaching out to communities to populate destinations to the map. The team is also assisting a videographer who has interest on the project and conducting interviews on the mapping project.

Niagara Escarpment Update

Mr. Fowle reported on the following:

- Unfortunately, long-time Niagara Escarpment Resource Network member Joanne Kluessendorf (Director of the Weis Earth Science Museum in Menasha) passed away in June. She was a passionate and dedicated person and will be missed dearly and NERN will be finding several ways to memorialize her work during 2018. Her husband has volunteered to take her spot on the network.
- The Niagara Escarpment Geotourism Program is taking shape – committee member and potential consultant Susan Kennedy has done reconnaissance work in the southern part of the corridor – Waukesha through Calumet – to make contacts and identify routes and features for inclusion. Corporate and business fundraising will commence soon so that the project can be initiated.
- The annual Wisconsin Ledge American Viticultural Area (AVA) Celebration was held on the afternoon of Saturday, August 18th at Trout Springs Winery in nearby southern Brown County. As part of the event, the Water's Edge Artists donated a special water color painting (valued at \$1,000+) for a silent auction of which 100% of the proceeds were donated to NERN.
- Lastly, Mr. Fowle informed the committee of an upcoming charity event “A Culinary Clash” cook-off on Saturday, Nov. 10 at FVTC. This will be a student chef competition to build awareness and be a fundraiser for the Niagara Escarpment.

County Round Table Discussion:

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

Calumet County - Mr. Kleckner reported that there was a brother/sister who was left some land in an inheritance just north of Calumet County Park. They are at the point of either donation vs. selling. The County would like to buy the land but for a reasonable price if the sister is selling. There was also some issues on Stewardship funding for ADA kayak launches not being eligible.

Winnebago County - Mr. Schmiechel relayed that a new dog park is still a subject of discussion with the County in looking for more property. Also the Town of Clayton annexing to a Village raised some sanitary district issues on a DNR Settlement on ponding.

Waupaca County – Mr. Federwitz stated that the Pigeon River Flow-way has been drained and dredged in Clintonville and looking at the options of reducing weeds in that area.

Menominee County – Mr. Johnson discussed the AIS efforts of milfoil in the Legend Lake Area. He is working with universities to look at testing of hybrids and five genotypes to rid the area.

Outagamie County – Mr. Rettler relayed that the County is working with the DNR in ditch dredging a portion of the Newton Blackmoor trail that gets flooded out.

Next Meeting Time & Agenda

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, January 10, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.** with the location TBD.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rettler and seconded by Mr. Timm. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 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 2019 Meeting Dates:

January 10, 2019

April 10, 2019

July 10, 2019

October 9, 2019