SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Open Space and Environmental Management Committee
Elisha D. Smith Public Library, Menasha, WI
January 9, 2019

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

Staff Present:
Scott Konkle .......................................................... Reclamation Mining Specialist
Todd Verboomen .................................................. Associate Planner
Trish Nau .......................................................... Principal Park and Recreation Planner

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair DuWayne Federwitz facilitated the meeting. There were no introductions as everyone knew each other at the table.

Mr. Federwitz called the meeting to order at 1:33 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 Ms. Karth passing unanimously.

5. Public / Guest Comment

There was no public present.

ACTION ITEMS:

#1 Approval of October 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.
#2. Approval of the Proposed Resolution 43-18: A Commitment to Restrict the Use of High-PAH Pavement Sealants in the Region.

Mr. Verboomen introduced the resolution. A note was made that the number should be 43-18, not 42-18 as previously listed on the agenda. Discussion on the importance of eliminating runoff from sealants continued with the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Ms. Karth and seconded by Mr. Johnson to adopt the Resolution and put in front of the whole Commission. The motion carried and the item was passed unanimously.

#3. Approval of the 1400 and 1600 Work Program Elements: Ms. Nau, in Mr. Fowle’s absence, handed out the tables for the 2019 projects that staff would be working on. She went through and explained each element number with the committee. The 2000 Element was also shared to reflect the number of revenue contracts obtained from the new fee structure for technical assistance projects.

A motion to approve the 1400 and 1600 Work Program elements was made by Mr. Johnson with a second by Mr. Rettler. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Announcements:

a) Ms. Nau relayed to the Committee that the DNR State-Wide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Draft 2019-2023 was available for review on its website. She passed around a hardcopy of the plan.

b) Ms. Nau also noted the new appointment of the DNR State Secretary under Government Evers administration is Cole Preston and passed around a press release on his qualifications.

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. No new information to report.

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 soon. Mr. Schmeichel reported that there will be a Steering Committee meeting with the Executive Committee this Friday in Fond du Lac to discuss a no wake ordinance on the lake and the waterways. Discussion continued on how this would be enforced. He also stated that there will be the annual call with the Army Core of Engineers on flood control and water level management issues as well as shoreland erosion control.
iii) Lake Michigan Stakeholders: Mr. Verboomen’s stated that he still is on the board and the full meeting for the stakeholders will be held in July this year and will center around commercial shipping on the Great Lakes and coastal management issues.

Recreation Planning Activities Update

Ms. Nau relayed to the Committee on 2018 Park Plans that have been completed and adopted, City of Clintonville and Village of Oakfield. The CORP’s that are carryovers in progress are Shawano County, Winnebago County and the City of Menasha. Winnebago County should be wrapping up in spring of this year.

Ms. Nau also stated she will begin work in early 2019 on the City of Shawano, Village of Sherwood and City of Kiel’s CORP updates.

NR-135 Metallic Mining Program

Mr. Konkle’s relayed to the committee he continues to inspect sites and review of big scale reclamation operations. He looks at vegetative cover on reclaimed areas with the recent aerial photos to see what operations are active and which ones can be reclaimed.

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway:

In Mr. Baron’s absence, Ms. Nau relayed to the Committee that work continues on the below items of interest:

- Updating paddling maps - Creating redevelopment map for properties along Fox River corridor
- Navigation Aids - Continuing to work with group to maintain and improve navigation aids in Lower Fox River area
- Non-profit board - Minimal activity

Niagara Escarpment Update

In Mr. Fowle’s absence, Ms. Nau reported on the following:

Staff continues to host and coordinate regular meetings of the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network, with our next meeting being held Friday, January 18, 2019.

NERN continues to make headway on several fronts, including the signing of recent contracts which will:

1. Do a complete re-work of the NERN website (www.escarpmentnetwork.org)

2. The development of NERN “sub-brands” and marketing materials for specific efforts, including:
   a. Niagara Escarpment Geotourism Program
   b. Ledge Tours / Ledge to Lake Tours
   c. Niagara Escarpment Curriculum Project
   d. General Events (AVA Celebration, FVTC Culinary Clash dinner, etc.)
   e. Land Stewardship/Conservation initiatives
These materials will be utilized to initiate fundraising for these various efforts.

3. Additionally, a contract is being developed to address initial organizational needs for the development of the Geotourism Program. ECWRPC staff time has been allocated to develop an ESRI Storymap for the project.

Lastly, the Commission recently entered into a contract with Fond du Lac County to conduct GIS mapping and analysis for their Escarpment Corridor. The outcomes of the project will be a series of potential definitions to be utilized in future land conservation/stewardship programs that will be funded by the County, as well as a “vulnerability analysis” which will provide insights as to the prioritization for conservation activities.

**Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition Update**

Mr. Fowle participated in a November conference call with the DNR Brownfields Coalition.

In FY18, the Coalition received $600k ($480,000 in hazardous substance grant funds and $120,000 in petroleum funds) to continue assessment services under the Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) Program which can be use by communities for Phase I and Phase II property assessments. [https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/wam.html](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/wam.html)

The Wisconsin DNR’s state-wide initiative, the Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative (WPRI), which was created to encourage the cleanup of environmental contamination and redevelopment of properties where industrial and/or manufacturing facilities are closing. As a part of this initiative, the WDNR is partnering with Regional Planning Commissions, local governments and other eligible applicants to use assessment funds to investigate brownfields throughout the state, concentrating on industrial sites and closed or closing manufacturing plants that are acting as impediments to economic redevelopment. These funds will be used to continue this effort. [https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/wpri.html](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/wpri.html)

Additional flexibility has been created within these programs, including:

- For the WPRI program, in addition to assessing closed and closing manufacturing sites, funds will be used to assess sites that may not have a history of manufacturing but are high priorities to receive brownfields assessment funds because they are in rural areas, racially diverse communities, and/or economically disadvantaged areas.

- The WBC’s (i.e., WAM) assessment program also will include projects with potential for economic development at that site and/or neighboring sites; sites with community interest and involvement; and projects for which plans for reuse are consistent with local redevelopment objectives.

The WDNR also has a Technical Assistance for Brownfields (TAB) Program. TAB provides free technical assistance to communities and others with brownfields redevelopment efforts, including coordinating community meetings and redevelopment planning, free workshops, webinars, online training and e-tools. TAB can assist communities applying for federal brownfields funding, by reviewing draft applications. [https://www.ksutab.org/](https://www.ksutab.org/)
**Steering Committee Update:**

In an effort to better inform all Commissioners/Committees, routine reports on Steering Committee activities will be provided as each Standing Committee meeting.

The Steering Committee will be meeting on January 24th, 2019 to address the following items:

- 2019 Budget & Work Program (final, prior to going to Commission on 1/25).
- 2019 Affirmative Action Plan
- WEDC Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program Policies
- Continued Discussions on 2020/future Levy.

In addition, the Committee will be addressing updates to the Commission’s Personnel Policies and Bylaws in the coming months.

Mr. Verboomen added that there are SSA conflicts with Town of Clayton, City of Appleton, and Fox Crossing of service areas and the continuing political issues of where laterals should be ran and whose control it is.

**County Round Table Discussion:**

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

**Calumet County** - Ms. Karth stated that a new sheriff was elected and the county is working on Ag Tourism and zoning ordinances.

**Winnebago County** - Mr. Schmiechel relayed that they are still dealing with stormwater issues and are looking into dredging of the Neenah Slough to be used as a training area to remove sludge.

**Waupaca County** – Mr. Federwitz stated that the new County facilities are up and running. This was an upgrade of $1.5M of space and a new sheriff was elected.

**Waushara County** – Mr. Timm reported that a new sheriff was elected and that the K-9 unit now has a 3rd dog to add in police activities.

**Menominee County** – Mr. Johnson reported that a new sheriff was elected and also concerns on thin ice on Legend Lake of having people falling through.

**Outagamie County** – Mr. Rettler relayed that the County is still 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

*Summary of Proceedings submitted respectively by Trish Nau, ECWRPC Principal Recreation Planner*