SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
Open Space and Environmental Management Committee
ECWRPC Offices, Menasha, WI
July 10, 2019

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

Committee Members Excused:
DuWayne Federwitz, Chair .................................................Waupaca County

Staff Present:
Eric Fowle ................................................................................Executive Director
Scott Konkle ............................................................................Reclamation Mining Specialist
Trish Nau ................................................................................Principal Park and Recreation Planner
Anna Hogan ................................................................................GIS Planning Assistant

1. Welcome and Introductions: Vice-Chair Bob Schmeichel facilitated the meeting in the absence of Chair DuWayne Federwitz. No introductions were made as all sitting at the table were acquainted.

   Mr. Schmeichel called the meeting to order at 1:36 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 Ms. Karth and seconded by Mr. Rettler. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public / Guest Comment

   There was no public present.
ACTION ITEMS:

#1 Approval of April 10, 2019 Open Space & Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings (Attachment #1)

A motion to approve the summary of proceedings was made by Mr. Timm with a second by Ms. Karth. The item passed with one abstention from Mr. Johnson.

#2 Nomination and Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

This action item was held until the end of the meeting. Mr. Schmeichel opened the nominations to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Schmeichel made a motion to re-elect Mr. Federwitz as Chair contingent on his acceptance of the position, seconded by Mr. Timm. The motion passed. Mr. Rettler made a motion to keep Mr. Schmeichel as the Vice-Chair with a second by Mr. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Nau will follow up with Mr. Federwitz on the Chair position.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Announcements:

1. Mr. Fowle relayed information on the Nelson Issue Brief regarding Nitrates and Runoffs as Attachment #2.
2. Ms. Nau gave the Committee details about the Province Trail opening in Menasha on June 18 and showed pictures and mapping of where it was located.
3. The Lake Michigan Day Celebration will be held at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum on August 9 this year. Mr. Fowle also stated that the LMS Champions of Conservation Award will be given.

STAFF ITEMS:

2020 Technical Assistance Requests and Current Work Program Status

Mr. Fowle handed out a quick synopsis spreadsheet of the 1400 and 1600 work programs. He reported on the current projects and relayed new technical assistance projects that may occur in 2020.

Water Management Issues

Mr. Fowle shared a handout on the Menasha Lock Electrification Proposal to rid the channel of Gobies. This would be an electric barrier to prevent the invasive fish from entering the lock and into the system. The Lock could be slated to reopen in 2021.

Recreation Planning Activities Update

Ms. Nau gave a status report to the Committee on current CORP’s in progress: Shawano County, City of Menasha, City of Shawano, and the City of Kiel. The City of Menasha should be wrapping up within the next couple of months.

Winnebago County’s CORP was adopted by the County Board on April 16, 2019.
Ms. Nau also stated she presented information at the Winnebago County Board on the Sunnyview Expo Economic Impact Study that showed economic value of revenue to the overall area in regards to an additional 28 acres of property that is going to be added to the venue.

**Safe Routes to Parks – City of Shawano Pathways Grant**

Ms. Nau discussed she has been working with Shawano Pathways on their grant process of looking at access to trails within the city. The grant obtained was for $12,500 to provide better park access of the surrounding areas and Native American population base within the vicinity of the trails and parks. Ms. Nau will analyze data received from Shawano Pathways in trail and park access with the CORP and Park Audits.

**NR-135 Metallic Mining Program**

Mr. Konkle’s conveyed to the committee his work on inspection sites and a new reclamation operation. He continues to look 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, Mr. Fowle gave a briefing to the Committee that work continues on preparing updates to the water trail maps in advance of having a batch printed for the Upper and Lower Fox River segments. The Parkway tourism along the river may pick up steam as the municipalities add in launch sites and development areas.

**Niagara Escarpment Update**

In Mr. Fowle’s handed out to the Committee members examples of the rebranding effort that NERN is currently doing for different activities.

- Initial work on the development of NERN “sub-brands” and marketing materials for specific efforts using a local firm, A2Z Design. These materials will be utilized to initiate fundraising for these various efforts.

- The focus areas for this branding work include:
  - Niagara Escarpment Geotourism Program (and a catchy new name for it too!)
  - Ledge Tours / Ledge to Lake Tours
  - Niagara Escarpment Curriculum Project
  - General Events (AVA Celebration, FVTC Culinary Clash dinner, etc.)

- Wisconsin Ledge AVA Celebration invitation was handed out, August 17, 2019, Trout Springs Winery.

- The 2019 “Ledge-ndary” Student Chef Challenge event has been set for Friday, November 1, 2019. This annual partnership fundraising dinner event showcases the FVTC Culinary Program and local (escarpment) sourced food and wine.

**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 likely meet again in July to discuss/act on the following items, including but not limited to:

- Future levy and financial strategy
- Strategic Plan update
- Update of Personnel Policies
- Update of Fee Schedule
- Succession Planning for Key Personnel
- Update of Bylaws
- Membership/Levy Issues with Outagamie County

**County Round Table Discussion:**

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

**Calumet County** - Ms. Karth stated that the county has almost completed its Farmland Preservation Plan and Zoning Ordinances. They are also in the process of building a new jail.

**Winnebago County** - Mr. Schmiechel relayed that the County is doing a good job, but more parking is needed at the boat launch facilities. He also stated that the Town of Neenah is looking into a trail from their Conservancy Park to connect with Mahler Park and City of Neenah Trails System.

**Waushara County** – Mr. Timm stated that the County will be hiring five more police officers for 2020 at a $500,000 budget.

**Outagamie County** – Mr. Rettler relayed that the County is still looking at access along the CB and STH 15 corridors.

**Menominee County** – Mr. Johnson stated that there has been public informational meetings scheduled to assess safe routes within the reservation. The County received a 5 year grant through the UW-Extension and CDC for health based activity increases within the County.

**Next Meeting Time & Agenda**

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.** with the location TBD.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Timm and seconded by Mr. Rettler. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 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:*

**October 9, 2019**