



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Natural Areas Preservation Council

P.O. BOX 7921 · MADISON · WISCONSIN · 53707



Natural Areas Preservation Council Meeting
Mead Education and Visitor Center
S2148 County Highway S
Milladore, Wisconsin
July 15, 2014
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

(Subject to Council approval)

Present: James Bennett (Vice Chair), Sharon Dunwoody, Patrick Robinson, Owen Boyle, Erin Crain, Susan Borkin, Eric Anderson
Absent: James Perry, Thomas Eddy, Victoria Rydberg, Kenneth Bradbury
Staff: Thomas Meyer, Dawn Hinebaugh

A. Minutes of previous NAPC meetings

1. Minutes of April 24, 2014

Borkin moved (Dunwoody seconded) that the minutes of the April 24, 2014 meeting be approved as distributed. The motion carried.

B. Adoption of agenda

The following agenda items were proposed for addition:

- E.1. Role of chair (Crain)
- E.6. Definition of quorum
- F.4. Opportunity for SNA outreach (Robinson)
- F.5. Research agenda

Dunwoody moved (Borkin seconded) that the agenda be adopted as amended. The motion carried.

C. Announcements

- Bennett introduced newly appointed council member Eric Anderson, Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Anderson teaches courses in conservation and wildlife biology and focusses his work primarily on carnivores, including bobcat and wolf. He is an appointee of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.
- Boyle: NHC received a grant to conduct workshops around the state that address assessing the vulnerability of natural communities (including those on SNAs) to climate change. These are invitation only workshops.
- Meyer: The SNA Program's first ecologist and long-time program chief was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in Stevens Point on May 3rd.
- Boyle: Natural Heritage Inventory Program zoologist Bill Smith announced his retirement from the department after more than 35 years of service.

D. Report on previous action items

1. Report on Hemp Fishery Area SNA proposal

Bennett: Official NAPC letter sent to Freckmann thanking him for bringing the area to the council's attention and explaining the process that the DNR uses to analyze such proposals.

2. Report on meeting with DNR attorney

Crain: NAPC's request of DNR attorney Harvey to look at statutory sideboards of the council

has been elevated to the Secretary's office and expanded to include all DNR advisory boards. No update.

3. Update on Pittman Robertson funding

Crain: NHC was unsuccessful in its bid to get PR funding for SNA land management. It was awarded \$100K to study long-ear bat roost preferences.

E. Action items

1. Council elections

Crain asked for clarification of what the duties of the council officers are, and what the council is seeking in its leadership. She also asked for discussion on how the NHC Program interacts with the chair. Borkin responded that the chair is the "point person" for the group on all issues and the vice chair is the backup. Having the chair located in the Madison area provides for easier interaction with DNR administration and attendance at meetings and hearings. The discussion moved toward the process for nominating and electing officers. Officers are elected for one year terms. Past practice has been for an unstructured, open election. All agreed that a more formal procedure was warranted. Robinson moved (Dunwoody seconded) that the following process be used to nominate and elect NAPC officers for this year. The motion carried.

- DNR council liaison (Meyer) shares NAPC roster with members and solicits nominations for chair and vice-chair (members may self-nominate).
- Liaison contacts nominee to confirm their acceptance of the nomination and placement on the ballot.
- Nominees provide brief paragraph describing why they are interested in serving as an officer.
- Liaison sends ballot and paragraphs to council members for their vote. Completed ballots returned to liaison, votes tallied, winner announced.

The council's Operation Procedures should be changed to reflect this process. It was also recommended that a nominating committee be established before the 2015 election to further streamline this process.

2. Appointments

No discussion.

3. NAPC guidelines for placement of memorials on SNAs

Bennett, Borkin and Meyer reviewed the existing draft of council guidelines for placement of memorial plaques and facilities such as benches on SNAs. The guidelines closely follow DNR Manual Code. Dunwoody moved (Anderson seconded) that the guidelines be adopted as drafted. The motion carried.

4. Agenda of future meeting topics

Tabled.

5. Future council meeting schedule

Early October 2014 and early February 2015 were identified as target times for future council meetings. Meyer will coordinate scheduling.

6. Definition of quorum

NAPC Operation Procedures do not define what constitutes a quorum for voting purposes. Robinson moved (Borkin seconded) that the Operation Procedures be amended to define that a simple majority of sitting (i.e. appointed) council members constitutes a quorum. The motion carried.

F. Information items

1. Bureau of Science Services discussion

Tabled.

2. NHC marketing initiative

Crain reported that the “Natural Area Spotlight” sent by email now has more than 1,400 subscribers. She proposed a feature article be written for the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine (pass-through readership of 250,000) about the SNA Program and NAPC. The piece would highlight the Leopold (and other notable conservationists’) connection to the program and the link to endangered species protection. Crain will investigate this with WNR editor Kassulke.

3. Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation report

Crain reported on following NHC issues:

- SNA assessment project. Background information on standalone SNAs – including property inspection reports, invasives, species lists, boundary and safety issues, etc. – is being loaded into the department’s Land Management System toward the goal of identifying and prioritizing SNA property management and protection needs.
- SNA Volunteer Stewards program. LTE (Urban) hired to develop a handbook to guide volunteer SNA stewards and to grow the existing volunteer program in the southern region to statewide.
- Adopt-a-Natural-Area Program. The coordination of this program was dropped by the Natural Resources Foundation.
- The SNA Program will explore educating agency administration on the role of the SNA Program in the DNR, its purpose and importance, and use of SNAs as traditional “scientific areas”.

4. Opportunity for SNA outreach

Robinson explained an opportunity to educate the public about SNAs through display kiosks at the visitor center for the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve in Superior. The reserve is seeking NOAA funding, and support for an SNA display could be built into the grant proposal.

5. Research agenda

Robinson would like to steer the UWGB graduate students he advises toward research projects that would benefit SNAs. He asked that the SNA staff and District Ecologists consider developing a list of small, very specific, SNA research projects they would like undertaken.

On a motion by Borkin (Anderson seconded) the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Following the meeting, Anderson presented a program on his bobcat research. The council then toured the Mead Conifer Bogs SNA and Little Bear Hemlocks SNA.