



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Natural Areas Preservation Council

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



Natural Areas Preservation Council Meeting
Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster St.
Room 313
Madison, Wisconsin
23 January 2014
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Present: Michael Strigel (Chair), Susan Borkin, James Bennett, Sharon Dunwoody, Patrick Robinson, James Perry, Owen Boyle, Kenneth Bradbury, Thomas Eddy, Erin Crain
Staff: Bonnie Gundrum, Randy Hoffman, Matt Zine
Guest: Bob Welch

- A. Minutes of previous NAPC meeting
 - No comments...Su/Sharon motion to approve...approved
- B. Adoption of agenda
 - No other comments...Jim/Su motion to accept agenda...approved
- C. Announcements
 - Tom: additional e-mail contacts can/should be added to SNA e-blast distribution list, so get them to him
 - Tom: based on 2011 SNA workshop, Tom developed "WI SNAs" course that is currently being taught at Marian University
 - Jim B: Botanical club annual meeting is at UWM Field Station, Cedarburg Bog (July 12, 2014, 10-4)
 - Mike: there's an initiative to integrate parcel info (Land Info Systems) across the State (right now it's county-by-county)
 - this will improve consistency and better protect conservation areas by better delineating them
 - Mike Freeze (sp?) is DOA main point of contact
 - This effort is approved and money has been allocated - just need to figure out how to do it (counties have issues re what each wants, is capable of, etc)
 - Erin: legislature required DNR to create atlas of public lands purchased with Stew funds
 - It's available online (free) or hardcopy (expensive - \$90, bulky)
 - Hope to have next version online and/or app only (easier to use, keep updated, etc)
 - Mike: if the point is to id all public lands open for the public to enjoy, we should integrate all public land info (as opposed to just Stew parcels)
- D. Report on previous action items
 - Jim B: drafted comments on the issue of whether Van Vliet Hemlocks SNA should be

managed passively

- No public comments received
- NRB voted to keep site passively managed
- Jim B: when NAPC makes a public statement, should it be on e-blast, website, etc.?
 - Jim Bennett, Mike and Thomas hope to meet with DNR atty to explore the ways in which NAPC can be heard...what are the sideboards?
 - Sharon: Three ideas they've decided to address: 1) make formal support for DNR staff recommendations to NRB (e.g., Van Vliet), 2) provide info re locations/features of SNAs to governing bodies that are making decisions that could affect SNAs, and 3) advise DNR staff on designations/delisting of SNAs
- Erin: "how much timber is locked up on SNAs" issue
 - A long-term complaint...Wildlife Federation has brought this up this time
 - Erin, Randy, and Drew Feldkirchner (NHC-Forestry liaison) will go to Wildlife Federation meeting on Feb 1 to address issue
 - Randy will present this info at the next NAPC mtg
 - 99.6% of timbered land are open to harvest (i.e., 0.4% of SNAs "locked" up...mostly things like cedar swamps – i.e., difficult to access anyway)
 - Forest Certification states that not all "sustainable forests" are about harvesting, therefore, SNAs serve a need by protecting forests for other reasons (e.g., water quality, etc)
 - Sharon and Tom will help us get this message out there as this issue isn't going away
 - Talking points first, then perhaps more dvp article explaining the values/services provided by SNAs (e.g. Nat Res Magazine – 87K subscribers)

E. Action items

1. Council Administrative matters

a. Appointments: Department of Public Instruction

- DPI Environmental Education Consultant (Victoria Rydberg) wasn't interested, so Bob's name came up
- Bob Welch – prospective NAPC member (DPI rep)
 - See his CV (attached on e-mail from Thomas)
 - Part of SNAs for decades
 - Worked with Dennis Yockers in past
 - Had project to get public in Hartman Creek SP out to Waupaca Co SNAs
 - 1990 started "Club Ecos" for scientists doing work in Central WI
 - Working on Scientist in Residence cottage ("Acorn Lodge" – focusing on oak savannas)
 - Lots of active mgt...few thousands of his own money/year...getting kids involved...partner with Fishery Area and State Park staff
 - Presenting to WI Society of Science Teachers to talk about SNAs, getting kids outside
 - Randy asked that Bob help get the word out to these people re some of our activities...Citizen Based Monitoring, Volunteer Steward opportunities
 - He's leading 3 NRF tours in May
 - Conservation Easement on his land (155ac) at Emmons Creek Barrens SNA...doing lots of mgt there...not required to allow public access, but he does allow some public access
- Jim B asked Bob if he'd be willing to produce NAPC annual report - Bob was willing to

- consider doing this
 - Sharon/Ken and Tom motion to recommend Bob as DPI seat with NAPC - approved
- b. "SNA Day" (Eddy)
 - Wants NAPC to consider asking legislature to create "SNA Day" (or week?)
 - Partner with NHC and NRF
 - Need to identify legislators that would be supportive (both sides of the aisle)
 - Erin believes it would be an opportunity to get the word out, and willing to explore further
 - Mike believes NRF would be an important partner – need to gauge their level of interest...Jim B will put this on the NRF agenda for their Feb mtg
 - Sharon: Need to further define what this will include, what its goals are, how much work would be involved, who would do the work, does it need to be a formal (legislative) effort?
 - Tom will organize and lead a sub-committee that examines this effort, develops it, etc
 - Sharon, Owen, Jim B and Jim P will help
 - Patrick: WI Env Educ Board grants are available, and may help (mid-Feb due date)
 - Mike: Land Trusts across the state could be other natural partners, as well as Friends Groups
 - Tom: agrees with Sharon that it might be a good idea to informally try it for a couple of years, but, to officially designate it will be important to reach/educate legislators...Sharon suggests we develop it first, then slowly bring in legislators
- c. Reimbursement of council expenses per §15.09(6) Stats. (Meyer)
 - We're supposed to be reimbursing NAPC members – currently, we're not
 - Tabled for now given Thomas' absence
- 2. SNA protection and establishment recommendations (no items)
- 3. SNA management and use recommendation
 - Policy for benches and memorials on SNAs (Bennett)
 - Initiated by proposal from a family that wants to donate \$80K to Parfrey's/Baraboo Hills, and put in bench and plaque at Parfrey's
 - Owen: We have existing guidelines on memorials that we should start with...needs to be updated
 - Jim B and Su will form sub-committee to address this
 - Sharon: need to let public know what their options are with respect to these kind of donations...make it easier for them, and more productive for SNAs
 - Mike: sub-committee should work with Thomas to see if Natural Areas Association has addressed this already
 - Tom: suggests NRF places something on their website acknowledging the donors. Bennett agreed to work with NRF on this.
- 4. Future council meetings
 - Will get the word out asap – sometime in April
 - Ken offered to host a mtg at his facilities in Mt. Horeb
- F. Information items
 - 1. SNA Program information and issues
 - a. Timber sale revenue (Zine)
 - NHC can keep timber harvest revenue generated from stand-alone SNAs
 - b. New designations (Hoffman)
 - Randy passed around printed copies of 5 new SNAs (approved at Oct NRB mtg) – designated as part of Master Plan process (info on these sites are online with all of the other SNAs)

- Lake Two Pines
 - Van Vliet Hemlocks
 - White River Breaks
 - White River Boreal Forest
 - Nell Lake
 - This issue subsequently prompted a discussion re Friends Groups
 - Good examples are Van Vliet, Cedarburg Bog, Kettle Moraine Natural History Assn
 - Matt explained that we've (DNR) had discussions with NRF about developing a Friends group program for SNAs...not any movement recently
 - Sharon thought that we should do more to acknowledge these groups, publicize the opportunities
 - Matt noted that there are Stewardship grant opportunities for Friends groups
 - Stew Grant Program:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stewardship/grants/applyfriends.html>
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stewardship/grants/friends.html>
 - 2013 Awarded Grants:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/documents/awards/stewardshipfriends.pdf>
 - Contact: Pam Foster Felt (Stewardship program head) -
pamela.fosterfelt@wisconsin.gov
- c. Acquisitions (Hoffman)
- Randy presented FY13 acquisitions to NAPC last summer
 - FY14 dollars cut in ~1/2
 - Lunch Creek Wetlands acquisition
 - Chiwaukee Prairie
 - Couple of larger purchases in process – Red Banks and Lower Chip
2. Administrative matters
- a. NHC Bureau Director's report (Crain)
- For the first time, NHC did an annual report this year (in Feb Natural Resources Magazine)
 - copies of report are available - contact Erin re how many you would like
 - this report will occur annually in the magazine's December issue
 - Erin met with NRF (Ruth Oppedahl) re "Adopt an SNA" program
 - They stopped the program
 - New ½ time LTE is developing Volunteer Steward program (expansion of effort begun in southern WI)
 - Starts Jan 27
 - Hiring short-term LTE to evaluate stand-alone SNA condition
 - Starts Jan 27
 - A small portion of Wisconsin's allocation of Pittman-Robertson Funds (tax on firearms, ammunition) is given to NHC annually (<2%)
 - There is a current PR bump from \$13M to \$19M
 - Given that you can hunt on virtually all SNAs, we're trying to secure more for SNAs
 - Mike wants to know if/how NAPC can help make this happen
 - Pilot project to make rare species info available to private landowners (State Statute says that users have to pay a fee to access this info)
 - NHC will pay for the review in this pilot, targeting woodland owners, CRP cooperators, average landowner, to try to gauge what landowners want, need, and to document that there's a need out there

Su/Jim B made motion to adjourn – approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Minutes recorded by Zine.

Inquiries regarding this agenda or the Natural Areas Preservation Council may be directed to:
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