



STATE OF WISCONSIN

# Natural Areas Preservation Council

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



**Natural Areas Preservation Council Meeting**  
**University of Wisconsin Arboretum**  
**1207 Seminole Highway**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**

**5 December 2012**

**Noon**

## **MINUTES**

(Subject to Council approval)

Present: Michael Strigel (Chair), Thomas Eddy, James Bennett, James Perry, Owen Boyle, Patrick Robinson, Dennis Yockers, Erin Crain  
Absent: Joy Zedler, Evelyn Howell, Susan Borkin  
Staff: Thomas Meyer, Matt Zine  
Guest: Ruth Oppedahl

### **A. Minutes of previous NAPC meetings**

#### **1. Minutes of March 8, 2012**

Bennett moved (Yockers seconded) that the minutes of the March 8, 2012 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

#### **2. Minutes of September 13, 2012**

Bennett corrected section E.1.a. to read "Strigel was reelected as council chair and Bennett as vice-chair for a one year term". Bennett moved (Robinson seconded) that the minutes of the September 13, 2012 meeting be approved as amended. The motion carried.

### **B. Adoption of agenda**

- The following items were added to the agenda:
- D.1. Meeting with DNR administration
- D.2. Tellock's Hill Woods sand mine update
- E.1.a. Council appointments
- E.2.a. Columbia County master planning for DNR properties

Robinson moved (Boyle seconded) that the agenda be adopted as amended. The motion carried.

### **C. Announcements**

- Ruth Oppedahl, the new Executive Director of the Natural Resources Foundation, was introduced to the council. She briefed the council on several items of mutual interest, including:
  - The partnership with DNR to develop an endowment for the management of state-owned lands, including SNAs. Legislation to create this NRF-managed fund passed the legislature unanimously. It provides a mechanism for purchasers of hunting licenses to make a separate donation to the fund. NRF is forming a group of conservation partners to assist with the marketing and promotion. A September 2013 event is planned to kick off the effort.
  - NRF's "Adopt-a-SNA" program (see attached). SNA Program staff met recently with NRF's Barb Barzen to develop an SNA "needs" list to use for targeting potential adopters.
  - NRF's field trip program. Many trips visit natural areas, building support for the SNA program among members.

- Potential collaboration with the SNA Program and/or NAPC on a Volunteer Stewardship Program.
- Robinson suggested that NRF might partner with NAPC to host another SNA Workshop.
- Crain reported on Bureau of Endangered Resources issues, including:
  - BER will hire a marketing firm to help the program grow its constituency, market itself – especially using social media, and raise funds.
  - Some Natural Resources Board members have a perception that SNAs are not open for hunting and fishing. A short video describing the SNA Program and allowable public uses is in production and will be shared with the NRB and posted to the DNR's YouTube site.
- Robinson thanked Eddy for his fine work on SNA Network communications.
- Eddy announced that the annual meeting of the Botanical Club of Wisconsin is slated for August 3 at Lulu Lake SNA. BCW Botany Blitzes are planned for the Straight Lake Tamarack Fen and the Yellow River Oxbow SNAs.
- Strigel reported that in 2013 WASAL will be reconvening its successful 2002 Waters of Wisconsin conference.

#### **D. Report on previous action items**

##### **1. Meeting with DNR administration**

Strigel and Crain met with DNR administrators Kurt Thiede (Land Division Administrator) and Allen Shea (Director of the Office of Business Support and Sustainability) to reestablish a relationship between NAPC and DNR, and to discuss how to most effectively convey NAPC's message to the agency and be influential. Although no specific issues were discussed, the meeting went well and established a pathway for regular, future meetings. As a sidebar to this discussion, council members asked that SNA Program staff be more communicative on routine program issues of interest to NAPC, specifically about new SNA project proposals and new designations. Staff agreed to provide this information. It will also engage the council on the development of a "public use continuum" list of SNAs and provide an overview of its SNA acquisition priorities and gap analysis at a future meeting.

##### **2. Tellock's Hill Woods SNA sand mine**

Council members reiterated their concern about taking a position on an issue such as the proposed sand mine adjacent to Tellock's Hill Woods without first having a solid background on the issue. Discussion ensued regarding how and when the council should get involved, recognizing its need to maintain credibility. It should comment only on known impacts, supported by science. Strigel distributed a decision tree (attached) used by Gathering Waters Conservancy that guides how and when GWC responds to issues. He suggested the council use this as the starting point for developing its own response policy.

#### **E. Action items**

##### **1. Council administrative matters**

###### **a. Appointments**

Yockers advised the council to craft a strategy for filling his DPI-appointed position that he will soon resign, and develop a list of potential appointees for State Superintendent Evers. Unwittingly, the terms of all four UW-System appointees expired on July 1, 2012, a situation requiring immediate attention. Meyer, Bennett, and Strigel will develop a course of action for appointments.

##### **2. SNA protection and establishment recommendations**

###### **a. Columbia County master planning for DNR properties**

Zine briefed the council on the draft master plan for DNR lands in Columbia County. The plan calls for the designation of five new SNAs, all embedded within other department properties, and the overall expansion of SNA acreage from 2600 to 5400 acres. The NRB will consider the plan at its meeting next week, and Zine asked if the council could endorse or otherwise provide support for the plan. Given the council's previous discussion (D.2., above) and the short deadline, the council decided not to weigh in on this issue. Discussion followed regarding the need for the council to be briefed well in advance of such requests for support. Schroeder agreed to have Hoffman address the council at its next meeting

about the SNA gap analysis, acquisition priorities, and the importance of gaining NAPC endorsement of SNA designation proposals before they are included in a final master plan draft and forwarded to the NRB. Crain suggested the council formally endorse the gap analysis to counter the question “how much is enough” voiced by outside critics concerned about excessive land acquisition by the department. It would make a powerful statement to the board and public if DNR could declare that NAPC had reviewed gaps in the SNA system and affirmed that a given land acquisition met program objectives and needs.

**3. SNA management and use recommendations**

No items.

**4. Standing committees**

No items.

**5. Future council meetings**

Meyer will schedule meetings for early March and June 2013.

**F. Information items**

**1. SNA Program information and issues**

No items.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 on a motion by Robinson (Crain seconded).

Inquiries regarding these minutes or the Natural Areas Preservation Council may be directed to:  
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