



STATE OF WISCONSIN

# Natural Areas Preservation Council

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



**Natural Areas Preservation Council Meeting**  
**Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection**  
**Room 172**  
**2811 Agriculture Drive**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**

**8 March 2012**  
**9:30 a.m.**

## **MINUTES**

(Subject to Council approval)

Present: Michael Strigel (Chair), Thomas Eddy, James Bennett, James Perry, Laurie Osterndorf, Owen Boyle, Patrick Robinson  
By telephone: Susan Borkin, Evelyn Howell, Joy Zedler  
Absent: Dennis Yockers  
Staff: Thomas Meyer

Strigel called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

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

#### **1. Minutes of December 6, 2011**

Eddy moved (Robinson seconded) that the minutes of the December 6, 2011 NAPC meeting be accepted as submitted. The motion carried.

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

Osterndorf moved (Eddy seconded) that the agenda be adopted as submitted. The motion carried.

### **C. Announcements**

- Eddy announced that the Botanical Club of Wisconsin will hold its annual meeting in Marquette County on July 21<sup>st</sup>. BCW-sponsored Botany Blitzes will be held at Lawrence Creek SNA that day and at Cassville Bluffs SNA on June 24-25.
- Strigel announced that Gathering Waters Conservancy will host its annual retreat for land trusts in Minocqua on July 19-21.
- Perry announced that the Wisconsin Academy will host a talk by conservationist Mike Dombeck on July 27<sup>th</sup> at Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield.

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

Previous action items to be addressed as part of meeting agenda.

### **E. Action items**

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

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

Bennett and Strigel worked with WASAL to finalize the appointments of Perry and Eddy to the council through June 30, 2014. WASAL asked that an annual report summarizing the work of the council be provided to them. The appointments of the UW-System and Milwaukee Public Museum appointees will expire on June 30, 2012. Meyer will work with Bennett on these appointments.

##### **b. Council operation procedures**

Bennett sought council's approval of the NAPC Operation Procedures as amended. Discussion: Council

members suggested two changes:

1.b. Insert after third sentence: "Term limits may be subject to terms set by the appointing agencies."

5.d. Insert after first sentence: "The Council may prepare an annual report at its own discretion if the Secretary does not request one."

Osterndorf moved (Eddy seconded) approval. The motion carried. Bennett will redraft the OP and distribute copies for the council handbook

**c. Education workgroup priorities implementation**

Discussion of this item moved to E.4.

**d. Commissioned study of SNA economic values**

Eddy described a study commissioned by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) to evaluate the economic values of wetlands in Wisconsin in response to recent proposals to change state wetland protection laws. The study was conducted by Earth Economics in Tacoma, Washington. He suggested the DNR consider a similar study targeting the values of SNAs, and that NAPC help facilitate initiation of the study since it falls under the purview of all three council focus areas: advocacy, education, and research. Osterndorf asked how the information would be used or what specific policies or rules the council is preparing to defend or challenge. Robinson noted that such studies are of little value to legislators and do little to change their minds on issues. He averred, however, that they do have value with the voting public and can affect internal (DNR) policy. Strigel suggested that the council's three standing committees evaluate this project in light of the committee priorities identified in the SNA Workshop. He proposed that the Research Committee determine the merits of pursuing this study and that WWA be consulted on the value of the study.

**2. SNA protection and establishment recommendations**

No items

**3. SNA management and use recommendations**

No items

**4. Standing committees**

**a. Communication Committee**

The committee consists of Bennett, Eddy, Strigel, Osterndorf (as chair) and guest Katie Beilfuss from WWA. Osterndorf reported briefly on a meeting with DNR Bureau of Parks Director Dan Schuller to discuss the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks and how it might be used as a model for an umbrella SNA friends organization. Although the parks model might be used by the council, Schuller cautioned that the heavy support needed to sustain such a group should be taken into consideration. Osterndorf provided a table of potential friends group action items and how NAPC could facilitate their completion (see attached). The committee agreed to further explore this issue given that the highest communication-related priorities identified at the SNA Workshop were activities that the council isn't legally able to do (such as advocate for funding or lobby the legislature), but that an independent friends group could do. Howell asked if existing organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Gathering Waters, or WWA, could serve this role. Strigel encouraged the committee to focus on supporting existing initiatives of the council, including the SNA Network and building a program constituency. Osterndorf distributed a table of action items and resource needs (attached) addressing the committee's priorities, and agreed to report out at each council meeting on the committee's progress.

**b. Research Committee**

Boyle and Borkin met, with Borkin agreeing to chair the committee. Perry will consider joining the committee. Boyle will coordinate his work with the Citizen-Based Monitoring program with that of the Research Committee. Borkin will call another meeting of the committee to discuss membership and goals.

**5. Future council meetings**

The next scheduled meeting of the council is June 12, 2012. Meyer will schedule a meeting for September 2012.

**F. Information items**

**1. SNA Program information and issues**

**a. Staff realignment**

With the retirement of long-time SNA Program staff member Mark Martin in January, the program is evaluating the responsibilities of all program staff so as to better match individual strengths with job duties. Martin's position will be more heavily focused on coordinating SNA management practices and policies on a statewide basis and interacting directly with SNA property managers.

**b. Endangered/Threatened Species List**

The scope statement requesting approval to revise Wisconsin's Endangered and Threatened Species list was presented to the Natural Resources Board. The process next moves to public open houses and preparation of an assessment of its economic impact.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon on a motion by Eddy (Boyle seconded).

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