



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

13 September 2012
9:30 a.m.

MINUTES

(Subject to Council approval)

Present: Michael Strigel (Chair), Thomas Eddy, James Bennett, James Perry, Owen Boyle, Susan Borkin,
Evelyn Howell, Joy Zedler
By telephone: Patrick Robinson
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 March 8, 2012

The minutes were not available.

B. Adoption of agenda

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

C. Announcements

- Perry announced that the Academy is sponsoring a reexamination of the successful “Waters of Wisconsin” initiative with funding provided by a Joyce Foundation grant.
- Schroeder announced the deaths of two Endangered Resources staff members: former NHI Botanist June Dobberpuhl and Bat Ecologist David Redell.

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. Election of officers

Zedler moved, Eddy seconded, that the existing officers be nominated for another term and that a unanimous ballot be cast to elect them. The motion carried. Strigel was reelected council chair and Bennett as vice-chair for a one-year term.

b. Appointments

Strigel and Meyer will speak with Yockers regarding his DPI appointment to the council in light of his recent retirement.

c. Process for determining on which issues NAPC comments

This item was placed on the agenda in response to a proposal to site a sand quarry on private land adjacent to Tellock’s Hill Woods SNA in Waupaca County. Strigel was contacted by a citizen who expressed concern about the potential impact to the site and asked the council to get involved in the issue. Discussion points:

- One of the values of NAPC is illustrated by the Tellock's Hill issue: the council provides citizen access to resources, advice, and DNR staff on SNA issues. Positioning NAPC as a point of contact for the public is an important role the council should embrace.
- Council should not take positions or write letters on public policy issues without first having full knowledge of the issue and ensuring such positions are relevant to the council's mission.
- Before commenting on an issue, the council should determine first if its input can be effective.
- A larger issue is that there are no standards or criteria for council responses.
- Council should consider developing a policy agenda to focus on specific issues and thus let issues not on the agenda be referred to other entities.
- When asked to write letters of opposition on issues, perhaps the council should instead serve as a resource by providing advice and information on SNA values to opponents.
- Gathering Waters Conservancy has criteria and a decision tree for when and how it responds to calls for action. Strigel agreed to adapt this for NAPC's use.
- What kinds of comments, and in what format, do DNR administrators (and other decision makers) find most valuable? Who in the agency reviews comments from NAPC and other advisory bodies? How can NAPC's voice be most effective? Strigel and Bennett will discuss these questions with DNR administrators Kurt Thiede and Al Shea.

2. SNA protection and establishment recommendations

No items

3. SNA management and use recommendations

a. Public use and access to SNA lands

During the development of NR 52, the administrative code dealing with the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, NAPC submitted comments stating it would develop criteria for when nature-based outdoor activities (defined in the code as hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing) should be considered for prohibition on SNAs purchased with Stewardship funds. Bennett asked for a status report on this item. Schroeder replied that the SNA Program staff will develop criteria and create a list of SNAs placed on a "continuum of public use". The council expressed its interest in working with the staff on this project.

4. Standing committees

a. Communication Committee

Strigel reminded the council that several actionable items were generated at the SNA Workshop, many of which dealt with building a constituency for SNAs. Ruth Oppedahl, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Foundation, is interested in revitalizing the "Adopt-a-SNA" program and in funneling money to SNAs from the new public lands management endowment. The committee recommended working in partnership with NRF on advocating for SNA funding rather than taking on this task independently. The committee also suggested that any effort to create a "Friends of SNAs" be led by NRF, which is much better positioned to administer to such a group, and that an NRF board member or the ED be invited to sit on the council as an ex-officio member.

Eddy mentioned the need to broaden the list of recipients of SNA Network emails. Meyer will provide him the emails of SNA property managers and SNA research permit holders. Eddy is investigating the creation of a Facebook page for the SNA network and will investigate the use of GovDelivery as a substitute platform for delivering SNA Network emails.

5. Future council meetings

Meyer will schedule a meeting for early December 2012.

F. Information items

1. SNA Program information and issues

No items.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 on a motion by Eddy (Bennett seconded).

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