



STATE OF WISCONSIN

# Natural Areas Preservation Council

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



**Natural Areas Preservation Council Meeting**  
**Natural Resources State Office Building**  
**Room 728**  
**101 South Webster Street**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**  
**16 October 2013**  
**9:30 a.m.**

## **MINUTES**

(Subject to Council approval)

**Present:** Michael Strigel (Chair), Thomas Eddy, James Bennett, Kenneth Bradbury, Sharon Dunwoody,  
**Telephone:** James Perry, Susan Borkin, Patrick Robinson  
**Absent:** Owen Boyle, Erin Crain  
**Staff:** Thomas Meyer, Randy Hoffman

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

#### **1. Minutes of July 16, 2013**

Eddy moved (Bennett seconded) that the minutes of the July 16, 2013 meeting be approved as distributed. The motion carried.

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

The following agenda items were proposed for addition:

- E.2.b SNA Network

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

### **C. Announcements**

- Bennett: Wisconsin Wetlands Association is recognizing the work of Galen Smith with an award on November 7.
- Strigel: Attended Land Trust Alliance Rally. Trends: Acquisition funding is down as public and private entities focus on land management issues. Increased attention on community engagement: need to show the importance of protected lands to the community.
- Meyer: Will email roster of NAPC members and asked that information be reviewed for accuracy. Gave brief synopsis of the Natural Areas Association conference (Chicago) and Society for Ecological Restoration conference (Madison) he attended in which Wisconsin SNAs were highlighted on field trips.
- Perry: Commented that the SNA Program should be more active in reaching out to the hunting and angling community, especially via media (such as Wisconsin Outdoor News).

### **D. Action items**

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

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

Bennett reported that the UW Board of Regents approved the reappointment of both he and Robinson to terms ending in 2015. He noted that the short term of appointment was done to create a staggering of the four UW terms. Eddy stated that he had been contacted by Victoria Rydberg, Environmental Education Consultant with DPI, expressing interest in joining the council

now that former DPI appointee Dennis Yockers had retired. It was agreed that Strigel, Bennett, and Meyer would meet with DPI administration to provide background on NAPC and determine a path forward for appointing a representative.

**b. Criteria for setting policy priorities.**

Strigel distributed Gathering Waters Conservancy's criteria as a starting point for consideration of developing similar criteria for NAPC. The council is cognizant of the fine line between "advising" and "advocating". It is concerned about the constraints placed on it by the statute authorizing the council. Bennett will work with Dunwoody, Bradbury and Meyer to examine the statute, interpret what the council can – and can't – do within those sideboards, and then meet with DNR legal counsel for advice on that interpretation. The group will report back to the council at a future meeting.

**2. SNA protection and establishment recommendations**

**a. Van Vliet Hemlocks SNA**

Hoffman provided a history of ownership, management, and site protection efforts at this old-growth site in Vilas County. As part of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest master plan update, the entire site will be designated an SNA and all of it will be passively managed. The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (the previous landowner) and the public support this plan, which will be presented to the Natural Resources Board for approval at its meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bennett was approached by a citizen who urged the council to provide a formal statement of support for the Van Vliet designation. Eddy moved (Bradbury seconded) that Bennett be authorized to submit to the NRB (via its website) a short paragraph on behalf of the council that supports the language of the master plan amendment and SNA designation. The motion carried. Dunwoody suggested that NAPC become even more proactive on issues such as master plans and other NRB issues of interest to the council.

**b. Habitat quality assessments**

Deferred until SNA staff has an opportunity to discuss.

**3. SNA management and use recommendations**

No items.

**4. Future council meetings**

Meyer will work with the chair to schedule a meeting in early January.

**E. Information items**

**1. SNA Program information and issues**

**a. SNA Volunteer Steward Program**

Deferred. Program currently on hold.

**b. New SNA designations**

None

**2. Administrative matters**

**a. Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation update**

No report, as Crain was not present.

**b. SNA Network**

Eddy sought advice on timing and content of the email blasts sent out via the SNA Network. It was suggested the words "SNA Network" be placed in the email subject line. Bradbury recommended sending the network emails to the WGNS distribution list. Dunwoody agreed to advise Eddy and Meyer on broadening the appeal of the SNA Network emails.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 on a motion by Eddy, seconded by Bennett.