



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Natural Areas Preservation Council

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



Natural Areas Preservation Council Meeting
Roche-a-Cri State Park
1767 State Highway 13
Friendship, Wisconsin
16 July 2013
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

(Subject to Council approval)

Present: Michael Strigel (Chair), Thomas Eddy, James Bennett, Owen Boyle, James Perry, Kenneth Bradbury, Sharon Dunwoody, Erin Crain, Patrick Robinson
Absent: Susan Borkin
Staff: Thomas Meyer, Matt Zine, Randy Hoffman
Guests: Katrina Carlson and Jayna Sinn, UW-Stout

A. Minutes of previous NAPC meetings

1. Minutes of March 7, 2013

Bennett moved (Eddy seconded) that the minutes of the March 7, 2013 meeting be approved as distributed.
The motion carried.

B. Adoption of agenda

The following agenda items were proposed for addition or deferral:

- D.1.e. Criteria for setting council priorities: Deferred
- D.2.a. SNA designations : Added
- E.1.b. SNA Volunteer Steward Program: Deferred

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

C. Announcements

- Strigel: Introduced two new appointees to the council, Sharon Dunwoody and Kenneth Bradbury.
- Bennett: September 28th is "Public Lands Day". The Natural Resources Foundation will formally launch the Cherish Wisconsin Fund, an endowment that will provide funds to DNR to manage lands, including SNAs.
- Eddy: The annual meeting of the Botanical Club of Wisconsin will take place at Lulu Lake SNA on August 3. On August 10, a BCW Botany Blitz will be conducted at the Yellow River Oxbows SNA. A successful blitz was held at the Straight Lake Tamarack Fen SNA.
- Boyle: The Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will have a display at the DNR building at the Wisconsin State Fair (August 1-12) after a several year hiatus.
- Bradbury: USGS is using crowdsourcing to collect data such as surface water levels. See USGS website for more information.

D. Action items

1. Council administrative matters

a. Appointments

The DPI appointee to the council remains vacant. Bennett will work with Meyer to fill this vacancy. Boyle's appointment to the council expired on July 1. Meyer will work with Crain to reappoint Boyle to a 3-year term.

b. Election of officers

The slate of council officers was presented, with Strigel as Chair, Bennett as Vice-chair, and Crain as Secretary. Eddy moved (Perry seconded) that the slate be approved as presented and that candidates be elected to a one year term of office. The motion carried.

c. Recognition of departing council members

Meyer distributed resolutions recognizing the contributions of four members that recently left the council -- Joy Zedler, Evelyn Howell, Charles Luthin, and Dennis Yockers – and asked that they be formally adopted by the council. Eddy moved (Bennett seconded) that the resolutions be adopted as part of the council’s permanent record and forwarded to the four former members. The motion carried. Meyer will also send a laser-engraved plaque to each member.

d. Review and approval of changes to NAPC Operation Procedures

1. Active Emeritus status

First presented at the March 7 meeting, an “Active Emeritus” status of departing council members was discussed again for incorporation into the council’s Operation Procedures. The wording of this provision reads: “An Active Emeritus NAPC member shall receive notices for all NAPC meetings, will be invited to attend and provide feedback at meetings, and will be encouraged to provide feedback in other ways per their interest and expertise to the chair or other members of the council. This status does not confer voting privileges”. Robinson moved (Boyle seconded) that the procedure be adopted as drafted, with the proviso that the term “Active” be dropped from the name. The motion carried.

e. Criteria for setting policy priorities

Deferred.

2. SNA protection and establishment recommendations

a. New SNA designations

None

3. SNA management and use recommendations

a. Katrina Carlson project

Professor of Botany Katrina Carlson and her associate Jayna Sinn from UW-Stout presented a project they have developed for their students to use technology to streamline data-gathering and promote self-learning on SNAs. See attached materials for details. Carlson sought input from council members on their approach and methods and asked for a letter of council support. The council was enthusiastic about the project and pledged to work with Carlson as the project moves forward. The staff also agreed to assist Carlson with development of data input materials.

b. Criteria for SNA public use classification

Meyer described the SNA Program’s desire to develop criteria to classify SNAs according to their capacity to be used by the public for recreation. The program recognizes the need to continually justify the relevance of SNAs to the public, administrators, and the legislature, and wants to designate a group of SNAs at which the level of facility development (trails, boardwalks, kiosks, etc.) would be greater than has been the practice. Meyer distributed a draft list of criteria and considerations for the council’s review (see attached). Eddy voiced concern about increased public use leading to invasive plant species being brought into SNAs. Bennett suggested that biological inventories be updated before facilities are developed on SNAs targeted for development. Dunwoody asked if the program knew about the current level of public use on SNAs. Meyer responded that it does not, as there is no mechanism to gather those data. Eddy suggested that the ecosystem services of SNAs be factored into the criteria. Meyer will solicit further input from the council via email and present a draft set of criteria at a future meeting.

c. Geological/geomorphological features classification

The SNA Program is responsible not only for the protection of ecological communities and rare species habitat, but also for geological features and archaeological sites. Hoffman presented a draft classification of geological features and geological processes that the program would like the council to review. The classification includes on-the-ground examples of these features that may be targets of protection for the SNA Program. Hoffman emphasized that the list is not intended to drive acquisition priorities, but would help inform the program on meeting its statutory requirements to address protection of these resources. Dunwoody suggested that the

audience, and its level of education and interest, be considered when determining the classification and how it's presented. She recommended that the classification be broad enough to appeal to the general public. Bradbury agreed to work with Hoffman and staff at WGNHS to devise a classification to be shared with the council at a future meeting.

4. Standing committees

No items.

5. Future council meetings

Meyer will work with the chair to schedule a meeting in late September or early October.

E. Information items

1. SNA Program information and issues

a. SNA land acquisition update

Hoffman provided a handout (attached) summarizing the SNA program's land acquisitions for fiscal year 2013. DNR expended \$1.87 million to acquire 3,427 acres of land for the program. Another \$2.6 million was spent by the program's land trust partners to acquire 1,073 acres of natural area lands, many of which will eventually be designated as SNAs.

b. SNA Volunteer Steward Program

Deferred.

2. Administrative matters

a. Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation update

Crain briefed the council on the recent realignment of the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources, the unit that houses the SNA Program, and thanked the council for its input during the process. The name of the bureau was changed to Natural Heritage Conservation to better reflect the broader mission of the subprograms within the bureau. The SNA Program fared well under the restructuring. There will be additional field staff at the district level tasked with SNA oversight and management, especially for stand-alone (NHC-owned) preserves. The number of District Ecologists will increase from four to eight. SNA management and implementation will be directed from a new Field Operations Section, with policy and oversight remaining in a new Program Integration Section based in Madison. Crain also updated the council on the status of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the source of funding for DNR land acquisition and grants to non-profit conservation organizations for natural area (and other) purchases. The DNR is now restricted to expending no more than 33% of its acquisition funds on fee title purchases, with the remaining 67% directed toward acquiring easements. Administration of the Stewardship grant program was moved to the Division of Land to better integrate and align all acquisitions funded by Stewardship. The grant program to NCOs will receive \$12 million per year for 50-50 matching grants, many of which fund natural area purchases.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 on a motion by Bradbury, seconded by Dunwoody. Following lunch, the council climbed to the top of Roche-a-Cri Mound SNA via the new stairway. It then met with Wildlife Biologist Jon Robaidek at the nearby Quincy Bluff and Wetlands SNA to view results of recent timber harvests.

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