



**Asylum Lake Policy & Management Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, 12 May 2016**  
**7 p.m.**  
**College of Engineering and Applied Science**

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order: 7:07
- II. Roll Call: Council members, James Timmons, Arthur Falk, Dave Lemberg, Chuck Ide, Duane Hampton, Jay Emerson, Paul Scott, Mark Frever, Tyler Bassett, Steve Keto, Lauri Holmes, Donna Tellam. Quorum met.  
Guests, Dave Nesius, Phil Micklin, Paul MacNellis,
- III. Adoption of May 2016 Agenda. *Approved*
- IV. Approval of April 2016 Meeting Minutes *Approved.*
- V. Old Business:
  - a. Trail discussion (see Lauri H. note). *Council discussed the history of the trail project proposed by Larry Harris and alternatives that were suggested once the Harris plan was shelved. In February 2016 meeting the council requested that AL trails be evaluated by a professional to assess needs and costs of improving trail to allow for more accessibility. Up to \$10,000 of maintenance fund could be used to do repairs.*

**Mark F.**, *No professional has been out to see the site and money will be needed to pay for assessment services as well. Mark will follow up on this with John Seelman from WMU facilities management. Council discussed what the way forward should be and if council members should assist Mark in this conversation. The last time that trails committee met it was not made public and several members did not attend. Duane happened to meet some member the day of and join them. The committee will need to be revisited as some members are not active.*

**Paul M.** *There is a master plan for the preserve trails from many years ago that developed better accessibility from Parkview not Gibbs farm entrance (part of Harris plan) The trail improvements were to be in order of priority Winchell (entrance completed), Parkview (lot completed), Drake (lot completed) Spillway (repairs completed) Trail from Winchell (completed).*



*The next phase was to connect Parkview and Drake to Spillway (on hold due to lack of support and funds for plan , approx. \$118,000). The Gibbs entrance trail was to be removed. Paul pointed out all this information is on the website, there is no need to start this process over as the master plan was approved. Other council members pointed out problems with Website and were not aware of the master plan details.*

***Duane H.** Need to form new trail committee, Phil M., Lauri H., Paul M, Paul S. were asked and it was suggested that Tom E. be invited.*

***Donna T.** enjoys walking preserve but problems exist for customers that have even minor mobility issues: Winchell not user friendly. Drake rutty and muddy. Parkview only part is reliable as slopes not improved. Gibbs best mobility to the center of preserve but not to lake.*

*Council discussed the accessibility of Gibbs entrance noting the slope may be to great for safe wheelchair travel.*

***MOTION:** reestablish trail committee. Have Mark F. meet with engineers and report back to Council. APPROVED*

b. Governing documents review update (see Kay C. note)

***Jay E.** a few points to work on but the process of updating the documents is spelled out, readings, votes, public notice. Document changes must be approved by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of council approval (11 members) and WMU board of trustees. In the management framework some improvements needed in committees and ALPMC council member representation. Council discussed some non conforming practices; Open publicized meetings, attendance, posting minutes, Council make up, identifying appropriate community organizations that should be represented on council, (Members suggested that Geoscience have a seat on the Council), at large members and term limits, annual reports (now provided to WMU business and Finance), management plan updates (every 5 years).*

*Council discussed how we go about resolving these issues. Committee and council members should read documents and make suggestions, send these to Jay E. to organize. These suggestions will be brought to the whole council or committee to justify and vote.*

*Originally there was clerical support to council from Environmental institute (Cari's original position) this passed from Paul to Cari and now Steve K. does the secretarial work for the council meetings. Mark F. will need to help define what part of Steve K. job is administrative to council.*



*Steve K. The job of Natural Areas has always been two jobs; administration, communication, website, scheduling, clerical AND boots on the ground land manager. Cari D was excellent at the organization, administration and website. Steve is more at home as the working field manager and community outreach and education, volunteers, students, vendors. Only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Steve K. job description involves Asylum Lake.*

- c. BTR 2.0 Update (see Paul M. Conversation)

*Paul M. talked with Dave Dakin from campus planning about the management plans for the site. Council discussed what this may mean for Asylum Lake and the future of landscapes at BTR2.0. Will there be condo fees to support management, what part will WMU manage? What part will be independent vendors? What restrictions will be on site use? Paul will follow up on these questions about management and report back to council. Dates for Advisory committee meetings and public impute meetings will be passed on to council.*

- d. Aggregate pile update ( Mark F.)

*Mark F. spoke with WMU Foundation representative (Bob Armister) and the gravel will be moved by June 16, 2016.*

*Jay E. indicated that the drain commissioner will investigate and contact the company that owns the material about compliance issues.*

***MOTION:** If aggregate pile is not moved by June 17, council will draft a letter to WMU Foundation.*

VI. New Business:

Kalamazoo Foundation funds update ( Mark F.)

*There is \$3400 left in ecological management fund( difference between what council appropriated and what Wildtype billed for actual work done.) Can this account be closed? How should money be spent? Council reminded Mark F. that the money is NOT WMU Money but should be added to Asylum lake management funds for council use. Steve K mentioned the ecological management committee should meet and discuss the next management priorities, Oak woods, wetland, prairie, other?*

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports:

- a. Prescribed Burn update (Steve K.)

*Weather and wind not conducive to burn, should the council continue to encourage Ryan K.,our burn boss to continue to plan for a burn this spring? Council discussed the logic behind early, late spring or fall burns and the consequences these have for target and non target species of plants and*



wildlife. Council agreed that we should continue to try for a prairie burn yet this Spring until Ryan K. says it is no longer possible from a fire safety position.

- b. Asylum Lake Adventure Day (5/10-11) review (**Steve K.**)  
*Very successful lots of great volunteers from ALPMC, WMU students and Staff.*

VIII. Public Comments: **Donna T.** Called WMU public Safety about group with Kayak in Preserve. WMU Public safety was not aware that this was prohibited activity but sent officer who encouraged the violaters to leave. Mark F. will talk with WMU DPS about the Preserve rules.

IX. Council/Staff Comments:  
**Steve K.** was concerned that he or his student did not receive a public safety alert when armed robbery suspects were followed into the Preserve. This is WMU property and students and staff are put at risk if not warned about these safety events. Mark F. will talk to Public safety about the alert process.

**Lauri H.** the ALPA celebration will be held at the Preseve Saturday September 17, 2016. There will be an Asylum Lake Art open house at Sarkozy's Bakery during Art Hop September 9, 2016

X. Adjournment 9:25

Next Meeting July 14

Future dates? August 11, September 8