

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

Thursday, 08 July 2010

7 pm

Parkview Hills Clubhouse

3707 Greenleaf Circle

The recorded comments below are expressions of council members and are not approved policy until voted on. The statements were not recorded verbatim and cannot be used as quotes.

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

a. Sign-In Roster

Council Members Present: Paul MacNellis, Mark Hoffman, Jay Emerson, Duane Hampton, Tom Edmonds, Frank Wolf, Steve Kohler, Tim Holysz, Cam Vossen, Tyler Bassett

Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator), Phil Micklin, Jake Ware (Representative from Professional Lake Management), Kay Chase (Alt. for Tyler Bassett)

III. Adoption of 08 July 2010 Agenda

Tom Edmonds motioned to approve the 08 July 2010 agenda. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

IV. Approval of 13 May 2010 Meeting Minutes

Tom Edmonds moved to approve the 13 May 2010 meeting minutes. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business

a. Parkview Ave. Parking Lot and Rain Garden

Tim Holysz and Paul MacNellis

- Tim stated that the parking lot piece of the project has been completed. WMU Landscape Services has been clearing the line of site at the entrance.
- Paul added that the planting for the rain garden is still on schedule for the fall. Cari has ordered the plants from Hidden Savanna.
- Paul stated that the spillway was working as expected after a rainstorm.

VI. New Business

a. Little Asylum Lake Treatments

Mark Hoffman/ALPA

- Paul stated that this subject was brought up by Amy DeShon, representative of ALPA at the last Council meeting.
- Mark was unaware of her concerns.
- Tom explained the history of the treatments at Little Asylum Lake (LAL). For 10 years we have been working to control invasive species and arrest bog progression. This progression is not natural due to the State hospital sewage plant discharging into LAL. Treatments have been successful in arresting weeds and the rapid loss of shoreline due to reed progression. Professional Lake Management (PLM) with permits through State of

Michigan has been treating the lake. Tom and Parkwyn Village are splitting the cost. The University was splitting the cost but last year they stopped.

- Jake Ware from PLM stated they are treating LAL for Eurasian watermilfoil and algae. Switched to a systemic herbicide (called Renovate or triclopyr) 3 years ago. Will use diquat if coontail takes over again. Algae was under control last year, but it was a cold year. A lot of nutrients are in the sediment and recycled through the lake. External nutrients are also coming in. PLM has to apply to use the chemicals at LAL every year through the DNRE.
- Frank stated he has worked with PLM for many years at Woods Lake. Important to have a view of the goals for the lake. Need to be sure all riparians are conscious of what they should do and not do. Then educate for your watershed. PLM has done a great job at Woods Lake. Eurasian milfoil is very invasive and will take over a lake.
- Jake stated that PLM has pamphlets on BMPs that can be given to the neighbors.
- Tom stated there are 5 riparians to LAL and everyone is on board with the treatments.
- Jake stated you have to weigh the risk vs. benefit. PLM has been in the business 30 years and uses chemicals at approved rates. It is a low risk to treat versus letting invasives dominate. Milfoil will overwinter and block sunlight to native vegetation.
- Steve asked when milfoil was first treated at LAL and if it was controlled?
- Tom replied in 2003 and Jake replied that only 2/3 of the east section of the lake is treated. The DNRE does not allow the other section to be treated. Because of this, milfoil is not controlled. However, eradication is not a realistic goal.
- Paul stated that previously they had discussed not using diquat dibromide.
- Tom stated it takes just one treatment of diquat dibromide a year to kill coontail.
- Cari raised concern about diquat dibromide being implicated in Parkinson's Disease.
- Jake stated that studies go both ways and there hasn't been strong evidence.
- Tom stated we have to take into account the use of the water. It is not used for drinking or swimming. The outflow to Willow Lake is very low.
- Kay asked whether PLM had considered using biological controls for the milfoil?
- Jake stated there is a weevil for control of the milfoil but there needs to be more studies.
- Kay stated this is a good opportunity for research at the property.
- Frank stated that at Woods Lake milfoil is spot-treated.
- Duane asked if we should be spot treating at Asylum Lake and suggested a follow up discussion at our next Council meeting.
- Paul stated we should put this question to the water quality committee to review.
- Mark asked if other nature preserves were treating their lakes?
- Jake stated that there are some situations where managers allow for systemic treatments of invasives only but not algae control.
- Cari will talk with Nate Fuller about treatments at the nature preserves he manages.
- Cari asked about macroalgae. Jake responded that this is an algicide used to target larger native algae.
- Mark asked if there was any risk to people who are fishing out of Asylum Lake?
- Jake responded that all products are approved by the State and there are no restrictions on them.
- Cari stated that copper sulfate and chelated copper are used to treat algae. Copper was high in both sediment samples performed by Dr Koretsky in the water quality report.
- Jake stated that a small copper residual is left. Copper sulfate has been used for many years. Currently a combination 2.6 lbs per acre foot is used. Chelated copper is a water soluble molecule. Using much lower rates than in the past.

- Paul will send the Council the MSDS reports on the chemicals used at LAL.

b. Drake Road Entrance / East Trail Designs

Paul MacNellis

- Paul passed out a map that Larry Harris put together of all projects the council has discussed for the property with prices. Most projects have already been designed.
- Paul stated he would like to proceed with the construction of the Drake Road entrance project. WMU administration has expressed interest in completing this project as well.
- Cari stated we have around \$135,000 total grantmaking funds in our account.
- Kay expressed concern that the Council has spent a lot of money on infrastructure and studies but not on improving the natural habitat. The main concern for this property from the Focus Group was to conserve and improve the habitat. Do not want to create a park and negatively impact the Preserve. We do not need to proceed with all 8 projects. Kay supported the dam project.
- Frank commented that we haven't spent much on infrastructure. The Parkview Ave. parking lot was constructed to alleviate safety issues. We need to make the Preserve welcoming so it stays valuable to the community. Handicap accessibility is important.
- Tom stated the Preserve needs to be accessible and attractive if it will continue to exist. The Council should be spending the money we have. If there are projects to be done we shouldn't accumulate a large surplus of money. Barrier free trail is a good project.
- Tom suggested the trails committee review the projects and come to the Council with recommendations.
- Cari suggested scheduling a management committee meeting to move forward with ecological priorities.
- Mark stated that closing the northern parking lot on Drake Rd. is a concern for ALPA. This is the closest access for people who want to fish. Is the request to close the parking lot substantial? This concern should be addressed by the trails committee.
- Tyler stated that if that entrance is valuable to the community then we should pay attention to it.
- Paul stated that WMU DPS would like to see no parking there.
- Cari will set up a trails committee meeting to determine project priorities and a management committee meeting to discuss ecological projects.

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports

a. Research/Education Committee

Cari DeLong

Cari reported on applications that had been approved by the Research & Education Committee since the last Council meeting.

- Geosciences Hydrogeology Course was approved to be held at the Preserve from July to August 2010. They will not be drilling a well, only using the existing wells and geophysical site for testing purposes. Segments of the prairie and savanna will be mowed.
- Survey point marker installation. The WMU Geography survey class marked the corner plots from the Native Connection's Ecological Assessment. Paul MacNellis will be installing rebar with plastic caps at each of these points. Markers will improve use of the property for regular monitoring.
- Role of plant-soil feedbacks in the biological invasion of Norway maple and implications for native forests. This project was submitted by a MSU grad student looking at the phylogenetic relationship of Norways to related species. She will be measuring distances and taking tree cores to determine ages.

- Effects of long-term mowing treatments on productivity. Application was submitted by a MSU undergrad looking at the effects of mowing in the prairie every year for the Geosciences Hydrogeology Course. She will be setting up plots and measuring biomass and composition.

b. Operations Committee

c. PR Subcommittee; Logos, Message Centers

Cari DeLong

Motion: Tom Edmonds motioned to request \$330 from the KCF to cover the cost of developing the Asylum Lake Preserve logo. Tim Holysz seconded All in favor. None opposed.

- Cari has been working with the PR committee to develop a new logo since our original logo uses the same icon as a MSU logo. She passed around pictures of the new logo designed by a consultant with input from the PR committee.
- The council approved the logo design.
- Cari asked that we request \$330 to cover the cost of designing the logos.
- Tom Edmonds motioned to request \$330 from the KCF to cover the cost of developing the Asylum Lake Preserve logo. Tim Holysz seconded All in favor. None opposed.

d. Trails Subcommittee; Newly Mowed Paths

Cari DeLong

- Cari stated that the new trails configuration designed by Larry Harris & Assoc. has been mowed in the prairie, savanna and old field. She passed out a map of the new trails. Trail closed signs have been posted at the head of trails that will no longer be mowed.

e. Construction Subcommittee

Paul MacNellis

- Mark stated that the construction subcommittee reviewed the design by Larry Harris & Assoc. for the Drake Road entrance in the prairie.

VIII. Public Comments

- Jake mentioned that the phragmites at the west end of the lake should be dealt with. The State is giving money for phragmites eradication.
- Tyler stated that conditions are perfect for phragmites and will continue to be perfect for it. We need to go after the source of the problem, then the phragmites.
- Duane stated that the management committee should discuss this topic.
- Phil stated that the north side beach is a nesting area for map turtles but the raccoons are eating the eggs. Can we find some way to protect or collect the eggs?
- Cari stated that the management committee will discuss this issue

IX. Council/Staff Comments

- Duane asked if we could discuss the addition of bathroom facilities at the next Council meeting.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.