



**Asylum Lake Policy & Management Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, 8 September 2016**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Bernhard Center Faculty Dining room WMU Main Campus**  
**(Room #119 located at the back of the main floor cafeteria)**

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order 7:05
- II. Roll Call *Council, Mark Frever, James Timmons, Jay Emerson, Arthur Falk, Steve Kohler, Paul Scott, Steve Keto, Lauri Holmes, QUORUM YES (9) Guests, Phil Micklin, Tom Treuhft, Les Tung, Paul MacNellis, Dave Dakin, Donna Tellam, Susan Andress*
- III. Adoption of September 2016 *Agenda Adopted with change move Dave Dakin, BTR 2.0 update to first on agenda.*
- IV. Approval of July 2016 Meeting Minutes, *Approved*
- V. Old Business:
  - a. BTR 2.0 Update— *Dave Dakin, Campus Planning Dave Dakin reported that the University is working on a grant from Economic Development Administration to facilitate remediation of chemical contaminants on site. Phase 2 environmental assessment revealed high levels of Arsenic and other chemicals in the orchard area. The grant will be needed to move forward this fall 2016. If the grant does not come through the project is on hold until next year when the grant process will be available again. The grant will fund a Due Care Plan and firms have been identified to do the work. If the grant is secured construction documents will be sent out for bid by years end. Dave will inform the council as to the grant and any future plans.*

*Q: Where is the Arsenic and other contamination from?*  
*A: Arsenic is naturally occurring in orchards and urban soils. Due to the clay layer the area has accumulated higher concentrations over 30 years.*  
*Q: What of the Orchid?*  
*A: not sure anyone has checked on the plant but the development will be built around it.*  
*Q: how many environmental samples show actionable levels?*



*A: 6 in the last round of testing, more testing planned*

*Q: Are you aware of the large plot of Japanese knotweed on the North slope of the property? There are grants funding CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species management Area) groups that will tackle this infestation. And there is lots on other Campus properties. These should be eliminated*

*A: there will be a trail on the north slope otherwise it will be left undisturbed.*

*Q: Did Oshtemo change any zoning restrictions.*

*A: Yes they will allow property owners to take credit for the shared undeveloped space as part of their footprint. This will allow them to build on a higher % of lot.*

*Q: Did access road and lot design change since last seen?*

*A: NO but we are working with MDOT and City Utilities on the infrastructure*

*Q: what of boulevard design?*

*A: Traffic safety first there will likely be a turn lane to allow north south access to Drake that will require rework of the current boulevard so there is a turn before the intersection light. Will close current cut through to Asylum Lake.*

- b. Governing documents review update, Jay Emerson reported that the work on the documents is mostly housekeeping to get the document in line with the reality on the Preserve. Current council membership does not match documents, organizations like the Environmental institute do not exist. Adding members is problematic as the documents spell out a very specific makeup of WMU and community representation. We need more impute before ready for first reading. Suggestion was made to involve Jan VanDer Klay before first reading. Paul MacNellis asked to be invited to this meeting as he has long experience with the founding and operations of the Preserve.*
- c. ALPA Sept. 17 event. Susan Andress and Donna Tellam, The ALPA art show at Sarkozy Bakery was very successful with hundreds of people passing through the venue. 29 art pieces inspired by Asylum Lake were on display. The ALPA celebration will be held Saturday 9/17 from 1-5. There will be like minded organizations with booths, music, tours and snacks. The publication funded by ALPA and ALPMC will be available. There were interviews on WKZO, and articles in Good News, Spark, and Facebook*



- d. Trail Updates *Phil Micklin* The council needs a report from an engineer as to how to solve erosion issues on trails. We have problems on the trail from Drake road and at the center of preserve off the old paved road to lake. We need to understand if not Fully ADA accessible what level of access do we seek. Staff or customers of Disability Services may have suggestions. The WMU Utility director was originally mentioned as a consultant but he has been busy. What is needed is an engineer familiar with roads and trails. Better to hire a professional like Keiser and Associates. The Trail committee will bring vendor suggestions to the Council.

VI. New Business:

- a. Successor to Environmental Institute secretary position. *Steve Keto* reported that the job of secretarial and web support for the Council came from the Environmental Institute and *Cari DeLong* brought this with her when she became Natural areas Manager. Steve is not proficient at secretarial or web work. There is no longer an Environmental Institute. Should this support come from other council member, volunteers, students, Intern? What is this worth to council, is this the ALPMC responsibility or does WMU, LS share some responsibility for this position. Student support will cost more than \$100 as it is difficult to keep student on call with only limited remuneration. To keep a good student, is there more work they could accomplish for the Council like website management? Is there options for Work Study students, or extra pay for current secretarial staff to support the Council? As there was is a precedent that LS supported this work should the burden be on LS to figure out the funding and staffing.
- b. ALPMC and Preserve Website management and upkeep. *Steve Keto* reported that Facilities management has hired a student, *Ramakrisnan*, to update the Landscape and Asylum lake Websites. While the web pages are not live yet, *Ramakrisnan* has added all the past ALPMC meeting notes up on the web page. *Ramakrisnan* is training to have the highest level of content management but there is still training to do. Discussion about the management content flow and editing, functionality of website and long term content management. Should ALPMC create its own website like the Stewards of Kleinstuck and fund a webmaster separate from WMU? Council debated the ability to do this independently. Could the council find and afford a secretary and webmaster? How is this work best accomplished by Temporary services, overtime WMU staff, Student intern?? Council should discuss with *Jan VanDerKlay* the skill set needed to do the work for the Council and ideas as to how to fulfill these needs.
- c. Preserve safety. Council discussed concerns over recent safety issues in the preserve and the Police and media response to these events. Police warnings,



*Bad Press and no positive follow up have damaged image of Preserve. How can we all help? Events like ALPA celebration help. The Chief of Police should be invited to an ALPMC meeting to discuss options and responsibility.*

- d. *WMU vs. ALPMC funding responsibilities Steve Keto understood that WMU administration had balked at recent ALPMC funding request. Has funding and oversight from WMU changed? Fencing and other large property management costs have been funded with one time monies from WMU has this changed? What should we expect in terms of website and secretarial staff support for council? If it is all ALPMC responsibility what oversight will WMU require even without funding support? Council discussed past history of ALPMC / WMU responsibilities.*

*VII. Project/Special Committee Reports:*

*None*

*VIII. Public Comments: Les Tung and Tom Treuhaft from Parkwyn Village joined the council to discuss the concern over the large deer herd that is resident in and around Asylum lake Preserve. The Council discussed educating our neighbors and community about deer issue, disease damage and accidents. Discussion included Lethal and non-lethal methods of population control that could be investigated in Kalamazoo. The Kalamazoo Nature Center and municipalities in Michigan have begun actively controlling deer herds within no hunting zones through special variances and permitting. Portage has a preliminary study on deer population to start the discussion on control. Many competing issues and ideas must be justified, and the holistic ecosystem integrity of the Preserve must be considered not just impact on neighbors. This is not unique to Asylum Lake, Kleinstuck and other urban locations are experiencing the effects of larger deer numbers. The council agreed that a discussion with the community must be initiated. We need Data, education, presentations, with others to get consensus before any control is initiated. This could also be part of the management committee discussion.*

*IX. Council/Staff Comments: Does the faculty dining room suit the council? Generally this location is convenient to most members and guests.*

*Next meeting October 13, 2106 7:00pm Bernhard Center Room #119 Faculty Dining Room.  
November 10, 2016 7:00pm Bernhard Center Room #119 Faculty Dining Room  
NO December meeting planned.*

*It would be nice to hear from Dr. Barkman and Dr. Sharon Gill about current research at the Preserve.*

*What is the Policy about Cross Country Use of the Preserve? As the Conservation Agreement states "passive" recreation this has come to mean no organized*



*practice or event can be held on Preserve. Individual or informal practices organized by teammates are not discouraged. All organized events should be approved by the Council to assure it meets the letter and spirit of the conservation declaration.*

*Dr. Barkman is willing to allow invasive management in his research plots. Steve K. will get a quote from Wildtype for work this fall or winter.*

X. Adjournment 9:20