

Friends of Cherokee Marsh
Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting
March 18, 2009

Present: SAckerman, JBecker, NCheney, MSimms, AStephenson, D Wheeler

Absent: RWalker (excused); SHarper, JSargent (unexcused); DHammes (advisor), Jan Axelson (excused)

Other: Kevin Connors, Director of Land and Water Management

Secretary Report: Cheney moved and Stephenson seconded that the February minutes, revised to indicate that Harper's absence was not excused as reported, be approved; the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: There were no deposits during the reporting period, except interest on the account. Ackerman moved and Cheney seconded that the treasurer's report be approved; the motion passed unanimously. Stephenson reported that the IRS approved FOCM's application to be a 501 (c)(3) organization. Becker asked for a reimbursement for supplies. The board approved a \$31.65 reimbursement of Becker's purchase of an art frame to be used for the Marsh art shows at the Lt Governor's office.

Information/Discussion:

1. Guest Kevin Connors discussed land and water issues facing Dane County including the lake levels of Mendota, Monona, and Waubesa, which vary depending on precipitation and water flows. He mentioned the Land and Water Legacy Program as a model for how the lake level issue might be explored and resolved. He pointed out that, with regard to infiltration, any new development must comply with the county's new standard, which is a minimum 80% of natural rate. Connors supported Friends efforts to plan for a broader vision of the Marsh, and recommended that networking take place now for long term planning. The board asked Connors to help it convey to others the complexity of the Marsh water quality/quantity issues, including threats from surface runoff, municipal well water table drawdown, high lake levels, and climate change.
2. Becker agreed to draft a letter to David Clutter and Matt Zine expressing FOCM's interest in being a link between WDNR and potential sponsors of the Adopt a State Natural Areas, which emphasizes restoration, for the Marsh's SNA. FOCM is already engaging in conversations with various funding sources, which preferably would donate to the Adopt program via the Friends.
3. FOCM was asked by WDNR's Sue Josheff to nominate "influentials" for participation in a "by-invitation-only" AUG 14 paddle on the "Cherokee Lake" section of the Yahara River. There was discussion of various local business, civic, and political leaders. Send nominees to Becker, who will compile and forward to Josheff.
4. Sue Borkin, Director of Research Support & Puelicher Butterfly Garden for the Milwaukee Public Museum, is interested in visiting Cherokee Marsh this spring to ascertain whether there is habitat for reintroduction of the swamp metalmark, and to make a public presentation of her findings, as well as previous relevant studies. Becker will follow-up with Borkin and communicate with Ackerman about the public presentation (see Educational Events below).
5. Three persons are interested in helping the Friends and possibly in joining the board as interim directors: David Clutter (land use/advocacy, natural resources, and nonprofit management expertise), Ron Pegram (CPA, MBA, and strategic planning expertise), and, after June, Attorney Dana Erlandsen (.).

The board authorized by common consent that Becker get and circulate their resumes to current board members. There was some discussion about capping the board at 12.

6. Becker shared information from an initial discussion with a local food entrepreneur about a potential activity that would benefit the Friends.

7. Mario Quintana has published a book of his photos of Cherokee Marsh from his current exhibition for the "Art in the Office" program of Lt Governor Lawton, and would like it to be used to benefit the Marsh. Becker photobook, with the addition of Friends brochure info including the Stephenson Marsh map and member form, be sold on a subscription basis as a Friends' fundraising activity. Ackerman moved and Cheney seconded authorizing this fundraising activity, with an initial expenditure of up to \$30.00 to purchase samples of the book, for use in procuring subscriptions. Ackerman offered to coordinate this fundraising activity.

Action Items:

1. Work will begin with the Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Process Design Committee (Becker, Stephenson, and Cheney, to date) working with Bill Rizzo and Allison Werner to design the strategic planning workshop, preferably meeting 4/15 – 4/24; the board recommended scheduling the Strategic Plan workshop for MAY 18-JUN 16, and as soon after MAY 18 as possible. The MAY 20 board meeting time should be explored.

2. Having met with Becker and Stephenson, Katie Beilfuss of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association will work with FOCM to plan activities for a Cherokee Marsh MAY 18 press conference announcing the WWA's new Wetland Gems program. Cherokee Marsh will be one of 100 Gems statewide. Becker will contact Beilfuss toward finalizing schedule details and confirming bad-weather backup plans. At the April board meeting, an ad hoc Gems Committee will be formed; Stephenson will take the lead in the interim, drafting a task list toward involving other board directors and, especially, Friends members.

3. The board discussed formation of an Ad Hoc 2009-10 Educational Events Committee, with Ackerman as chair, toward organizing 3-4 public presentations in the tradition established by the Friends during 2007-08. Becker suggested some candidate presenters and a rough schedule for consideration:

Late Spring/Early Summer: Sewerage Facilities Near Cherokee Marsh: Can Planning Prevent Emergencies? School Road pumping plant sewer overflow remediation work and new emergency plans, and future facility at Bong @ River roads site; MMSD community relations staffer (possibly co-sponsor with Cherokee Park NA, Peng Her, current president)

Summer/Early Fall: Cherokee Marsh Environs, An Overview of Past and Current Research; Dick Lathrop (UW limnology), or Ken Potter (UW civil engineering), or both

Late Fall /Early Winter: The Elusive Marsh Metalmark, Dane County History and Cherokee Marsh Prospects; Sue Borkin (butterfly curator, Milwaukee Museum)

23 January 2010 Annual Meeting (\$200 funding available for adult-family program, from Lakeview library Friends): Native Mounds of the Four Lakes Area (plus book-signing if possible); Robert Birmingham, author (ret. WI Archaeologist)

Becker will provide contact information to Ackerman. Other Directors and Friends may also nominate presenters to Steve.

Updates:

- 1. January 23, 2010 (Saturday) 10a-12n: annual meeting (pending Stephenson's confirmation of library availability 9a-1p.**
- 2. Items 2 & 3 tabled**
- 4. Simms had no new information regarding the NPC.**
- 5. Items 5-7 tabled.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Muriel Simms (acting secretary)**