

WISCONSIN POINT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Room 204, Government Center

Members Present: Tom Bridge (Superior Citizen Rep), Nick Danz (UWS), Terry White (Douglas County), Thomas Howes (Fond du Lac Band)

Excused: Kevin Feind (WI DNR), Keith Allen (Douglas County Rep), Jenny VanSickle (City Council), Erika Washburn (NERR)

Also Present: Linda Cadotte, Angie Harker, Ruth Ludwig (City Council)

Tom Bridge called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and agenda item #2 was taken up first.

2. Approval of July 19, 2017 meeting minutes.

MOTION by Danz, seconded by White, and carried to approve the Wisconsin Point Plan Implementation Committee minutes of July 19, 2017.

1. Introductions and election of officers

Introductions were made and since a number of committee members were excused, it was decided to elect officers at the next meeting. Thomas Howes was introduced as the new representative from the Fond du Lac Band, replacing Chuck Walt. Linda Cadotte, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry explained that the an ordinance was approved by the City Council, officially recognizing the committee as “Wisconsin Point Committee” and clarification was made regarding committee appointments and terms. The citizen rep is appointed by the Mayor for 3 years, City Council appointments are made in accordance with the annual committee appointment process (by the Council president) and other reps/terms are appointed by their respective organizations. The alternate City Council rep appointment has not yet been made.

MOTION by White, seconded by Danz, and carried to hold in committee the election of officers.

3. Howard’s Bay Remediation Project update

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director Linda Cadotte provided an update on the status of the Howard’s Bay Remediation Project, reviewing information received from Darienne McNamara, the city’s Environmental Regulatory Manager. It was hoped that there would be an agreement to go to the city council by November, however this did not happen. Final designs and specifications are almost complete. However, the project has been on hold for several weeks and likely won’t resume until January, due to hang-ups with the various funding agreements. Nevertheless, the expectation is that design and specifications would be finalized by late winter. At that point we get a more realistic cost estimate, everyone signs agreements based on those estimates, and then it goes out for bid. Late spring (by the time agreements are in place) is probably too late to line up contractors for 2018, so implementation is more likely to happen in 2019. The agreement right now, excludes the city as a partner. McNamara continues to be very involved on behalf of the city and continues to push to have us as a partner. Preliminary cost

estimates put the total cost beyond what the funding partners can afford. Depending on how bids shake out, there's a chance this may be too expensive to implement. There's been a concerted effort to identify opportunities for cost savings. The project consultant will crunch the final numbers once design/specs are done, at that point we'll have a better sense of whether this project is doable.

There have been a few changes to the project plans based on feedback from the community. Those include:

- Soil standards for material going to the closed landfill are twice as restrictive as they were before. Further, all soil will have to meet state industrial standards, at a minimum. Some contaminants have limits that are more protective than industrial standards.
- A native pollinator seed mix will be used to re-seed the landfill.
- City has requested installation of 4 benches on closed landfill and a vault toilet at Lot 1; Parks & Rec would mow trails on the closed landfill following project completion
- Wisconsin Point Road must be restored to pre-project conditions with City concurrence on acceptance of final condition
- Moccasin Mike Road: materials for road repairs would be furnished by the project, City labor would be used to re-surface the entire road (as in-kind support for project)
- A permanent storm water berm would be constructed along the south side of the closed landfill where drainage flows into a coastal wetland. This would prevent sediment runoff into the wetland.
- Dredge material would not be placed on the Lake Superior side of the closed landfill, with the exception of the very top of the hill.

Committee members voiced their belief that the City should be a partner in the agreement and also requested an updated project cost estimate and this will be emailed.

MOTION by Bridge, seconded by Danz, and carried to receive and file the Howard's Bay Remediation Project update.

4. Wisconsin Point Dune Restoration Project update

Cadotte indicated that NOAA continues to work towards concurrence with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs). They are on their second round of 30 day consultations. New ground penetrating radar has been requested. The 30 day period is up at the end of November. There is no go ahead with federal funding until there is concurrence, therefore invasive treatment was not completed this fall. Committee member Howes indicated he would look into the status of the consultations with the Fond du Lac THPO. Cadotte passed out information regarding the stone and wood patterns to be used on the restrooms. She also spoke about starting a sub group to work on signage for Wisconsin Point and asked members if they wanted to be a part of this group. The City's Environmental Services staff will pull together some content and begin brainstorming signage for the six parking areas. Ideas for signage that have been discussed include invasive species, the dune restoration project itself, archaeological features and the topic of wild rice. It is anticipated that a graphic designer will be hired at some point and that the cost of signage may be in the area of \$20,000 - \$30,000. Danz indicated that he would like to review the signage and recommended it be attractive and consistent. Different signage options were discussed. Cadotte indicated that the signage will be brought back to committee for final approval.

5. Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director's Report

Cadotte reported that there was a washout in the lighthouse parking lot following the recent storm. An emergency permit was obtained from the DNR to fill the area to stabilize it. Bridge mentioned a large number of trees downed by beavers. The subject of trapping was discussed and whether or not the dead trees are a risk for erosion since they are in a wetland area. Cadotte gave an update on the piping plover. They had a record year on Great Lakes beaches with numbers jumping from one to four on the Apostle Islands and in Green Bay, four pairs were observed. The birds have skipped Minnesota and Wisconsin Points however. The WI DNR will continue to move forward with the Bird Sanctuary beach plan on Wisconsin Point.

The question of land ownership at the end of the Point was brought up and Howes indicated that it was announced in the Fond du Lac State of the Band address earlier this year, that the band took ownership of the tip of the Point. He stated that the acreage started out at 18.2 and now it is down to something like 12.74 acres, as the Army Corp retained six acres. He indicated that the boundaries can be found on the Fond du Lac website under the maps tab. Howes stated he would bring an update to the next meeting as far as the band's plans for the land and the structures at the end of the Point.

The committee was open to meeting again as necessary, if there are updates; therefore no specific meeting date was set.

MOTION by Danz, seconded by White, and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of December 5, 2017.