

## REC Steering Committee Minutes for 09 October 2014

Members Present: Don & Cece Rudolph, Mary Wagner, Wes Ebert, Dev Quandt, Steve Schmidt

Guests Present: None

Steve Schmidt led opening prayer

### Old Business

1. Approve previous meeting minutes – Wes motioned & Cece second
2. Thank you notes
  - a. Eagle project completed by Andrew Raschke. He has stained the building & installed the gutters that have been stored for the past several years. He also built six Leopold benches. He offered to send his final report when it is completed. **Steve will send a thank you note via mail.**
  - b. Thank you notes were signed by the members present to our BioBlitz volunteers. Steve will mail them. Thank you to the UWSP – Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education group – Cassie Pio, Ann Lindner, Chris Kuntz, Gretchen Marshall, and Kendra Liddicoat; WDNR Insect & Disease specialist - Mike Hillstrom; Wes Ebert; & Jane Wood.
3. Harvest update(s)
  - a. Trucking – There was some issue with getting a truck into the field to pick up the logs. Jeff Sorenson assures me the logs are still fine for pulp. Mike Meister was supposed to visit a few weeks ago to check into moving them. **As of our meeting, the logs are still there.**
  - b. Upcoming winter – NCS is under contract with Cody Bergman.
    - i. **Cody needs to complete paperwork for NCS/Diocese of LaCrosse.**
    - ii. Jeff has contacted Cody to ask about a timeline. We hope for the harvest in winter, installation of deer enclosure in spring, and then planting of nursery stock in late spring.
  - c. Installation of a deer enclosure was also discussed.
    - i. Steve researched the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board annual grants. The timing of funding may be too late for our purposes (July 1). See 3bii above.
    - ii. There are also grants from local businesses such as Target.
    - iii. **Income from the sale of timber. Steve will discuss with Dr. Klosinski and also check into state school forest requirements. The committee strongly favored any timber sale proceeds to go back into REC programs.**
4. REC Rules (see May 2014 minutes) – were adopted as published in the May 2014 minutes.
  - a. There was some discussion about dogs needing to be on leashes, however, the committee decided that the wording as is could be interpreted that way for dogs that need more control. No one should be using the property when there are students using it, so there should be no cause for concern regarding bites, etc.

- b. This would make a nice Eagle Scout project, if combined with other work. It could also be a Life or Star scout project.

#### New Business

1. REC use update (see excel spreadsheet)
  - a. 2013-14 totals – there were 13 different groups from grades 3 and 5-12. Total student hours = 1216.5. Both elementary schools, and NCHS/MS visited. No pre-K, K-2 or 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes visited.
  - b. BioBlitz – 166 different organisms found by 203 students from all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade from St. Mark, NCMS (6-8), & NCHS 9<sup>th</sup> grade. 574 student hours so far!
2. 2015 Nursery order
  - a. As of the BioBlitz, quite a few of the evergreens planted in spring were doing well. It is difficult to tell whether or not the shrubs have done well since they are not well marked and may have already lost leaves.
  - b. We had a limited selection from which to order in spring, so Steve would like to order soon.
  - c. Installation of a deer enclosure was
  - d. Wes suggested we order some high-bush cranberry and balsam.
  - e. Steve did not think we could handle more than 300-400.
  - f. We will order 300 maples (100 red, sugar, and silver). If we are able to order 50 each of high-bush cranberry & 50 balsam, we will. **Steve will place the order.**
3. Dev suggested we post a sign to recognize Eagle Scout projects. This could be a part of another scout project (see Andrew Raschke project). Steve posted a list of projects on the NCS website last spring.
4. Next meeting May 2015 (and Winter, if needed).