

## REC Steering Committee AGENDA for 26 November 2018

Member's Present: Mike Martin, Ann McMannus, Wendy Hamman, Linda Wagner, Steve Schmidt

Opening Prayer

Old Business

1. Approve previous meeting minutes – Wendy motion, Mike 2nd
2. Deer Management Update
  - a. In June, Steve sent Mike the summary of the May meetings with the neighbors & Mike will follow up to see that the summary was or will get sent to the neighbors. Steve will email to neighbors on the list, if the summary was not yet sent.
  - b. Most recent NCS bowhunting regulations include comments from the committee and DNR wildlife biologist. Mike Martin has the regs and will oversee communication via the NCS website and USPS mail with the neighbors. Steve will email to neighbors on the list.
  - c. Dr. Thiel, 2017 auction winner of the REC hunt has decided to simply donate the proceeds and will not actually hunt. He has other commitments that precluded him from using the hunt.
  - d. Steve will call Cece and let the Rudolph family know they can pick a weekend to hunt, if they let us know in the next week.
3. Buckthorn project plans
  - a. Steve suggested that this (and other projects) could be used as part of the senior capstone project. Wes and Mike thought the timeline of the capstone program might make it difficult for a student to get enough meaningful data to complete a project. This led to the idea of multiple students collaborating or perhaps approaching the NCHS biology teacher, Darla Zastrow about an ongoing class project.
  - b. Order back pack & chemical...check DNR list for Garlon
4. Other updates –
  - a. Sledding hill white pine that was struck by lightning has been mostly cut, but still needs some debris moved off of the trail. (see previous minutes for details).The stump will remain as a teaching tool about natural fires.
  - b. Two trees were removed from the Judy Stoltz property over the summer.
  - c. Our Lady Fatima Statue is still waiting to be placed. Steve will follow up with Sam Beck and ask him to contact the Paul and Linda Wagner for placement. (see previous minutes in {brackets} following)
    - i. {Paul Wagner (Linda) has completed the shelter for the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.
    - ii. Sam Beck is looking for a scout project. Doug and Sam Beck recommended (via email from Doug, NCS teacher) placement on the island (west side of REC), just off the new chipped trail. This location would be good since it is flat. Those present discussed the idea and thought a spot further away, like this, would allow a person to experience the forest while traveling to the spot. Perhaps the spot would be less likely to be vandalized. The island has been managed as a, 'no harvest' area. The open spot would not require any trees to be removed. There were no objections to the suggested spot. }

## New Business

1. Use update – N
  - a. NCECC St Michael students visited in summer-52 children and 10 adults attend.
  - b. No other use all fall. This is the lowest fall use since the REC opened to students.
  - c. Steve suggested that staff turnover could be playing a role in this and NCS should include a REC tour as part of new teacher professional development training. An every other year teacher in-service at the REC in August would also be valuable so teachers can reconnect with our 7<sup>th</sup> school. This was last done in 2011(?) with support from the LEAF program at UWSP. Wes Ebert and Mary Wagner both led workshops for teachers.
  - d. Ann thought that the Wednesday or Thursday before school starts might work.
2. Candlelight walk
  - a. Ginnie & her husband did some mowing and buckthorn removal in preparation for the event .
  - b. The event is scheduled for Dec 19. Steve will add it to the REC calendar.
  - c. Neighbors could be invited when other information goes out to them.
3. Upcoming work
  - a. Plan professional development for new teachers and in-service for all staff. Steve with Admin.
  - b. On-going buckthorn & barberry removal are priorities.
  - c. Steve suggested that a pond scrape & aeration system would help the small pond support fish. This would not be a priority, but perhaps could be worked in a few years from now. Mike said this would likely need a donor to cover the cost of heavy equipment needed.
4. Other
  - a. Steve announced that Wisconsin has released new standards in science and environmental literacy. He also inquired about what the diocese uses for curriculum and standards in light of the changes to state teacher licensure. Mike suggested that Steve meet the NCS Chief Academic Officer, Amy Metlock to inquire further about how we could best use the REC to meet NCS students' academic needs.
5. Next meeting – spring 2019; possible committee work meeting – invasive species plan