

REC Steering Committee Minutes for 04 June 2019

Members Present: Cecelia Rudolph, Linda Wagner, Wes Ebert, Steve Schmidt

Prayer

Old Business

1. Previous minutes were approved after a misspelled name was corrected. Motion to approve by Linda and seconded by Wes.
2. Buckthorn project
 - a. Sprayer and garlon foliar herbicide to be ordered.
 - b. Ask NCS Maintenance for assistance with cutting in July & treatment in October.
3. Fall Bowhunt
 - a. Neighbors should be updated on plans for this fall.
 - b. Auction hunt dates TBA.
 - c. {John Rudolph & John Dolde, Cece's grandson who built REC bridge for Eagle project in 2006, would like to hunt weekend of October 5th. Per email response following this meeting.} Brackets indicate developments after the meeting for which these minutes review.
4. Eagle projects
 - a. Nick Thums and his father met with Steve to determine spots for the wood duck houses. He is building about 10 and using 2 refurbished ones. Old ones will be removed. Most of the new ones will be put on poles for easier cleaning each year. Project will be completed in the next few months.
 - b. Sam Beck will be meeting with Steve next week to finalize plans for placing the statue of Mary and a prayer center.
 - i. {Meeting took place June 12th. Project proposal will be written soon and proofed by Linda and Steve before passing on to Mr. Martin for approval. Sam will build 2-4 benches and place them on a level area with wood chips and the statue. Laminated prayer sheets will be available in mailbox on one of the benches. The location will be on the island just off the north end of the trail between the bridge & road pond.}

New Business

1. Mary Wagner has recently retired after about 30 years in the classroom at NCES – St.Mark. The committee discussed her accomplishments and extended their thanks for her instrumental role in the success of the REC as an outdoor classroom.
2. REC Activity Report - School Forest Survey
 - a. Use (student hours) went up slightly. 2017-18 = 371.75 2018-19 = 449.5
 - b. Number of events was down from 7 to 4, but student class visits remained steady.
 - c. Candlelight walk was again a successful event. Dan Sullivan was a leader in getting this started and has now retired. Ginnie Mootz, NCHS/MS band instructor, helped to plan the event and did some trail clearing and buckthorn work prior to the event. Steve will

ask her to join the REC Steering Committee. There is currently no NCHS rep on the committee.

- d. Still numbers remain lower than peak years (1216 in 2013-14 and 1179 in 2014-15). No high school class visits. Staff turnover and retirements the past several years have contributed to the need for staff development.
 - e. Steve is in discussion with Amy Mettlach, NCS Chief Academic Officer - Curriculum Director to start planning a fall in-service.
3. Fall In-service
- a. Possible in-service would include Mass, tour, and cook-out one day August 26-28.
 - b. Will possibly look to LEAF program at UWSP for more in-depth staff professional development and support.
 - c. {Recent discussion looks like there will be more frequent, but less formal staff development, especially for new teachers and possibly at the building level at faculty meetings.}
4. REC Leadership
- a. Steve thinks it is time to recruit REC coordinator/leadership from within NCS. Someone with a better handle of the NCS day to day would better manage the nuances of trying to increase NCS use of the REC.
 - b. Steve's limited time and possible conflict of interest with UWSP job is also affecting potential of the REC outdoor classroom. Steve is employed as a forestry education outreach specialist which includes support to school forests. Care to not double dip is important since his current REC position is as a paid consultant with Snapshot Science. Steve may be able to actually support the REC from LEAF in an advisory capacity and still sit on the REC steering committee. He feels this would be a more effective use of NCS resources and, with the right person from within NCS as coordinator, REC programming could thrive.
 - c. Steve will talk to Mike Martin about this.
5. Chores
- a. The rest of the fencing from the former deer enclosure was carried to the storage room in the building. Storage area needs to be organized and fencing equipment should be downsized.
 - b. Prior to the meeting, Cecelia and Steve changed the batteries and cards on the trail cams.
 - c. Structures
 - i. Spindle repair on ramp needed. 13 of the spindles are rotted at the base. 2 need to be screwed into the top rail as screws are rusted and broken.
 - ii. Inspect bridge, building & amphitheater – Steve will ask Steve Robison if NCS maintenance can do this annually.
6. Next meeting - Fall 2019