

January 4th Minutes

Present: Mark Mosey, LeAnn Ralph, Scott Gunnfson, Paul Verdon, Kathy and Lee Boland, Caitlin Nagorka

Minutes: Emilee Burcham

- Review Minutes: Approved minutes from December
- Prairie Restoration discussion: Discussed groups goals and visions for the prairie land:
 - Would like to see a lot of the ash and overgrowth removed to begin the processes of burning and seeding. Protecting certain pockets of white pine and other pockets of aesthetically pleasing to kayakers and other boaters.
 - Long term vision for seeding: seeding focus for the grass land nesting birds would be a long term goal. Trying to include pollinators and grass land birds.
 - Discussed the pros and cons of regular prescribed burns.
 - Soil type will be a huge part of what will determine the best seed mix and the most appropriate mix for the site.
 - As hunters we would like to see portions of heavier cover for ring-necked pheasants. Pheasants would be easily covered under a pollinator stand point of seeding.
 - On the outer edge we could accommodate the game birds that are not necessarily covered under the pollinator habitat. We would like to see some heavier vegetation that would withstand snow cover to really help shelter the game birds. Caitlin brought up that the presence of white tail deer will make use of that habitat no matter what kind of habitat we plan to seed.
 - Discussed the plan of action and the basis for funds. Caitlin discussed that her program could not compensate costs on burning, not that this was a problem. However, her program can fund the seeds by buying them and relaying that process to us.
 - Tanner was discussed as a conversation involving farm bill programs. Tanner has sent an email to the committee discussing the possible funding and restrictions.
 - Steps: Our next step in this process would be determining a timeline. How much do we want to engage with the schools and students? How do we want our students and community to help (with planning or more hands on work)? When we figure out how we want our schools

and communities engaged, we can set the timeline detailing our game plan. This timeline not only helps with schools, but helps us gage financially where we need to be at when.

- Wetlands Planning: Lee asked a question about fish spawning for the wetland. Caitlin said that these questions would be better for Casey as specialized questions. However she did note that if it was a seasonal wetland basin it could thaw early in the spring. If we introduce fish into the ecosystem we could disrupt this ecosystem by causing a disruption in the food chain. Casey would be able to answer this question with the addition to the pond connection.
 - Caitlin sent out resources to us not only on prairie land but wetlands as well. But Casey will also be a big resource for us in this wetland planning.
- Gates Update: Would like to send out thank you in the Messenger to all of the help we have received through the gates, kiosk, and anyone else who will help us. A thank you letter will also be appropriate. The guard rail at the front has been removed. The high visibility markers have been moved to the far gate.
 - Paul plans to remove the private property sign and take it down.
- Work Session Updates: There was a work session Saturday the ninth. Mark advertised it to NHS. Focused on invasive control with focus on area near the entrance.
- Winter Track Setting: There is a lot of brush that also needs to be cleared out for good walking trail width. When we do get significant snow, we will have to ask to leave a strip of good snow on the black top for snowshoeing.
- Trail Benches: Discussed the pros and cons of permanent and moveable benches. Background information would be needed to back up the cost and pro and con benefit of each. Would revisit this topic next meeting. Kathy will send out email of possible benches and we can really evaluate them as a group and vote.
- Signage on Property: Discussed the need for certain signage on the property.
- Display Update: Mark, Kathy, LeAnn formed a committee to discuss the signage for the land.
- Public Comments: Retired teacher thought of incorporating picnic table and clearing out the brush by the Pines near the paved road.
- Meeting and Agenda for Next Month's Meeting: Agenda for next month will include: Work sessions, Gates Update, Trail Benches, Signage, possible Prairie Restoration discussion, and Display Next month's meeting will take place Monday February 1, 2021.

- Meeting Adjourned: 8:56 p.m.