

**MINUTES  
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD  
WALLACE STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
DECEMBER 20, 1994**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Shirley Schermer, Chairperson  
Diane Ford-Shivvers  
Joel Hanes  
Robert Kindwall  
Martha Maxon  
Jonathan Steege  
Larry Wilson

**ADVISORS PRESENT**

Dorothy Baringer  
Rebecca Conard  
Kathy Gourley  
Daryl Smith

**STAFF PRESENT**

Daryl Howell  
John Pearson

**STAFF ABSENT**

Mike Carrier

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Schermer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**BOARD TOUR**

No board tour this month. Following the regular Preserves Board meeting, Board members will hold an informal discussion on future management options for Hayden Prairie.

## **APPROVE AGENDA**

The following adjustments were made to the agenda:

- Add - Item #12 - Management Plans on State Parks and Recreation Areas
- Add - Item #13 - Request from Decorah Saddle Club for Trail Ride at Malanaphy Springs

***Motion was made by Larry Wilson to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Robert Kindwall. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **APPROVE MINUTES**

***Motion was made by Joel Hanes to approve the meeting minutes of September 20, 1994, as presented. Seconded by Larry Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **IOWAN AWARD**

Dorothy Baringer presented a history of the Iowan Award and explained that it is a prestige award given to Iowans who have made great contributions to the state. She noted that examples of past honorees are Herbert Hoover, Henry Wallace, Norman Borlaug, Mamie Eisenhower, and Carl King. Mrs. Baringer stated that her purpose today is to urge the Board to write a letter to the Awards Committee of the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation to tell them about Sylvan Runkel's work. She related that Mr. Runkel has spent his life serving conservation for the State of Iowa and is very worthy of this award. She noted that he served on the Preserves Board for 11 years and was integral in getting their work off the ground.

Director Wilson asked Mrs. Baringer if she is asking for an endorsement by the Board.

Mrs. Baringer stated that it would be nice to have the Board's endorsement as well as individual endorsements.

Martha Maxon asked about the time frame for making a nomination.

Mrs. Baringer stated that it should be within the next few months.

***Motion was made by Martha Maxon that the Board send a letter of endorsement for Sylvan Runkel to receive the Iowan Award. Seconded by Joel Hanes. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **MALANAPHY SPRINGS**

Daryl Howell reported that the trail on the preserves was cleared with the help of volunteers from the Decorah High School Science Club along with a few volunteers from Audubon and other organizations. He noted that they did a nice job of getting the trail cleared and asked that the Board send a note of thanks to the Science Club.

Chairperson Schermer stated that she will send appropriate thanks to the Science Club as well as to Ted Silke, who offered assistance in organizing volunteers.

## **SEED COLLECTION REPORT**

Jerry Selby, The Nature Conservancy, distributed copies of his written report in regard to seed collection and restoration at Cayler and Freda Haffner Prairies.

He reported that per the board's request, he checked on the availability of commercial dealers in the area with guaranteed local ecotype seed meeting his guidelines, but did not find any.

Twenty-three acres in the northwest corner of the preserve were planted in the fall of 1993 using the seed collected in 1992. He related that the seed did not appear to germinate, but he is confident that based on the amount of seed broadcast they should see some results next year. The seeded area was mowed during the summer to control annual weeds. Monitoring will continue and reports will be given to the Board next year.

This year The Nature Conservancy did the seed harvesting themselves using a pull-type seed stripper acquired at the end of June. Most of the *Stipa spartea* had dropped its seed by that time. The stripper was tested at Freda Haffner but most of the mature seed was low in vegetation and it was difficult to harvest without getting a lot of green vegetative plant material. Most of the seed collection was done from September 23 to October 28. The seed was screened to eliminate most of the vegetative material. With the stripper set low, the screened seed/vegetative material was about 70% of the total sample by weight, and a final sorting indicated that the screened mixture was about 50% seed by weight. For the high setting the sample screened material accounted for about 94% of the sample by weight, and was almost pure. Mr. Selby provided a summary of the seed collection for 1994 which showed total pounds of seed collected (screened weight) to be 176 pounds. The east-central unit was seeded on November 12, 1994, using a Befco Seed Spreader and worked into the soil with a harrow. All but two acres of the unit was seeded.

Mr. Selby noted that next year the areas that have been seeded will be inter-seeded with seed from species that mature earlier. The plan is to reduce

the number of acres scheduled for reconstruction in 1995 to allow time to evaluate the success of the earlier reconstructions, and to focus enhancing the diversity of those reconstructions. The NE corner unit (about 4 acres) and the unit along the western boundary in the southern portion of the preserve (about 3 acres) are scheduled for next year. Mr. Selby related that those units and the areas at Freda Haffner that will serve as seed sources are scheduled to be burned next spring. He added that to facilitate the completion of the reconstruction project at Freda Haffner, TNC will again need to solicit the Board for approval to harvest seed from Cayler Prairie. He indicated that he will submit a formal request at the Preserve Board's next meeting, when their reconstruction plans have been finalized and their needs more accurately determined. He thanked the Board for their continued cooperation in this project.

Discussion followed regarding the type of stripper used; method of broadcast; frequency of mowing; and the amount of seed collected.

Mr. Selby asked if the Board would prefer to have TNC provide a long-range proposal rather than a year-to-year proposal.

Chairperson Schermer stated that the Board would like to have the request presented each year, but a long range plan would also be good.

Mr. Selby stated that the TNC may be looking at two more years of seed collection/restoration work.

Further discussion took place regarding reconstruction of prairies and single species/multiple species plantings.

### **HAYDEN PRAIRIE**

John Pearson reported that with the help of some Wildlife Bureau staff several work days were spent on brush control at Hayden Prairie. He related that Martha Maxon also helped the crew. A brush hog was used to cut the aspen clones. He noted that except for a low area in the southwest corner where aspen is natural, almost the entire preserve was treated. All stumps were painted with herbicide. Mr. Pearson stated that he feels the work days have made a major impact on aspen encroachment over the last two years. He reported that the Upper Iowa Wildlife Area crew conducted a fall burn on the southwest portion of Hayden and the area will have to be monitored to see the effects of the burn.

Martha Maxon commented that she was very impressed with the wildlife unit workers.

Chairperson Schermer asked about the staff request to use the 1989 management plan as a basic planning document.

Daryl Howell explained that rather than making a major change in the management plan for Hayden Prairie staff would prefer to look at the original plan with the overall objectives remaining the same. He related that over the years there have been some changes and different thoughts about what management techniques should be used.

John Pearson commented that staff need some flexibility on what to do for a particular year depending on the situation for each year.

***Motion was made by Larry Wilson to consider the 1989 management plan as a basic planning document to allow staff flexibility to try various management techniques. Seconded by Martha Maxon. Motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion followed regarding aspen problems in other areas.

### **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

Jonathan Steege reported that the committee has had some discussion on revisions to the procedure for requesting research proposals but they are not as far along as he had hoped they would be. He related that they are working on a system to rate the project without rating the person submitting the proposal. He asked that the Board defer this item until after lunch as he will meet with some of his committee during lunch.

Martha Maxon asked about earmarking some of the research funds specifically for Hayden Prairie. She noted that this was briefly discussed at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Steege replied that the Board will also discuss that issue this afternoon.

Director Wilson stated that he will not be able to attend the afternoon session and he would agree that one project should not be favored over another just because of the researcher's past accomplishments. He added that the Board should score research applications on whether they can accomplish the work and fill the needs of the Preserves Board.

### **WITTRUCK INDIAN VILLAGE**

John Pearson stated that the landowner adjacent to Wittrock was contacted in November about providing a 50 foot conservation easement to the DNR. He related that when Mike Schoneboom, District Parks Supervisor, met with Mr. Thompson he indicated that he was not interested in pursuing the conservation easement. Mr. Pearson noted that it would be a good idea to let Mr. Thompson know that the department has a continued interest if he should ever change his mind.

Consensus was that Chairperson Schermer will coordinate with Mike Carrier on writing a letter to Mr. Thompson to let him know that the Board has a continued interest in an easement, whether it be donated or purchased.

### **ADVISORS TO THE BOARD**

Chairperson Schermer asked for recommendations on appointing additional advisors to the Board.

Martha Maxon recommended that Jane Hey be appointed as an advisor and she distributed copies of Ms. Hey's resume. Ms. Maxon noted that Ms. Hey was previously a Preserves Board member and has maintained an interest in the Board's work. She is a biologist and zoologist at Morningside College and her main interest is in amphibian populations and wetlands.

***Motion was made by Martha Maxon to appoint Jane Hey as an advisor to the Preserves Advisory Board. Seconded by Robert Kindwall. Motion carried unanimously.***

Chairperson Schermer reported that she received a letter from Don Koch, Geological Survey Bureau, recommending that Robert McKay replace Jean Prior as an advisor. She reviewed that Jean had previously advised that she was no longer able to serve as an advisor. Robert McKay has worked for the Geological Survey Bureau for 15 years and would serve as a geology advisor.

***Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to appoint Robert McKay as geology advisor to the Preserves Advisory Board. Seconded by Martha Maxon. Motion carried unanimously.***

Joel Hanes suggested that the Board write Jean Prior and thank her for serving as an advisor.

### **STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT**

Daryl Howell provided the following summary of preserves related work for the period of September through December of this year:

- Hayden Prairie Management - Tree and shrub removal from the northern 1/2 of the 200 acre tract.
- Reviewed and provided suggested changes for a study of the genetic variation of the Iowa Pleistocene Snail. The study would include several cold air slopes located on preserves. Funding for the study is being requested through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as this species is federally endangered as well as state endangered.
- Routine information requests about preserves.

- Compilation of information about several preserves for article in Conservationist Magazine. The article was co-authored with John Pearson.
- Prepared draft biennial report for State Preserves as required by Code Section 465C.
- Preparation of the December meeting agenda.
- Coordination with preserve managers concerning questions about management and other issues.
- Discussions with contractor about the status and direction of vegetation mapping study being conducted by Paul Anderson and Michael Miller at Iowa State University.
- Investigated the reprinting of the brochure "Glacial Landmarks Trail" which has been very popular.

Mr. Howell reported that these activities amounted to 44% of his time during the 14 week period.

John Pearson provided the following summary of preserves related work for the period of September through December of this year.

#### Office Activities

- Worked with intern John Hopp to develop bibliography and natural community records for **Long Range Plan**.
- Met with Paul Anderson and Mike Miller at ISU to review progress on Phase 3 of **GLO mapping project**. Also developed ARCVIEW computer views of GLO maps from Phases 1 & 2.
- Received and reviewed botanical studies of two preserves: old growth forest permanent plots in **White Pine Hollow** by U.S. Forest Service; comprehensive species list of **A.F. Miller** (Northwoods) preserve by Bremer County Conservation Board.
- Assisted with acquisition of conservation easement on **Kauten Fen**. Jon Steege and Mike Carrier were also instrumental in this effort.

#### Field Activities

- Assisted plot selection and data collection of permanent plots in **Hardin City Woodland, Mann Wilderness, and Fallen Rock** preserves in Hardin County with Don Farrar and Jim Raich of ISU.
- Removed trees from **Hayden Prairie, Cayler Prairie, and Wittrock Indian Village** with assistance of various DNR staff.
- Inspected finished trail work at **Brushy Creek State Preserve**.
- Brief visits to **Anderson Prairie, Pilot Knob, and Woodland Mounds** preserves. Observed cages of Danielson and Maloney study of gopher activity at Anderson Prairie.

Joel Hanes asked how much more information is to be put into the data base.

Mr. Pearson reported that in working with the intern, The Nature Conservancy, and John Fleckenstein, they have developed a list of natural community types that occur in the state. He related that there are 61 community types recognized as occurring in Iowa. Based on this classification, Mr. Pearson and the intern then determined which type of communities occur on which preserves. Mr. Pearson related that this information now needs to be transferred to maps.

Discussion took place regarding the reference list, archaeological additions to be made to the list, and using it to target where work may need to be done. Also discussed was federal ecoregion classifications and work being done there. Mr. Pearson stated that, in his opinion, the best one is being developed by the US Forest Service.

### **MARCH BOARD MEETING**

Chairperson Schermer reviewed that at the last meeting the Board discussed the possibility of meeting in Glenwood in March. She related that the Mills County Conservation Board is willing to find a place for the Board to meet. The field trip would be to tour an area that has a Glenwood earth form archaeological site. She noted that the Glenwood culture is not represented at all in the preserves system, and this would be a good example of an earth lodge from a culture that could be considered for nomination in the preserves.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Wednesday March 22, at 8:30 a.m. Tour of the area will be on Tuesday, March 21, at 1:00 p.m.

### **MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR STATE PARK AND RECREATION AREAS**

Jim Scheffler, Parks Bureau, presented a history of the Iowa state park system, how it was managed over the years, and the effects of the different types of management and uses. He went on to say that 1995 marks the 75th anniversary of state parks. Special programs and events are planned to celebrate the year and to help introduce a new era of state parks. A major emphasis for this era will encompass a new initiative, the preparation of ecosystem management plans for all state parks and recreation areas. Mr. Scheffler stated that the long range goal of the ecosystem management program is: "To protect and manage state park and recreation area plant and animal communities in order to enhance and perpetuate the natural diversity of the area while considering the educational benefits, and the aesthetic needs and compatible recreational demands of the area user." He related that each plan included specific vegetative management recommendations for natural communities within the area boundaries as well as wildlife management recommendations. He expanded on those issues.

Mr. Scheffler explained that a Management Planning Team is made up of the area manager, wildlife biologist, forester, plant ecologist, and central office vegetation management planner and they are responsible for plan preparation. Outside specialists from a variety of disciplines will be utilized as necessary. He noted that a target group of six parks and recreation areas was selected for plan preparation in 1994 but progress has been slower than anticipated. Green Valley State Park was the only plan that has been approved; others are in varying stages of completion. A new group of areas will soon be designated for planning attention in 1995.

Mr. Scheffler stated that while the primary intent to date has been the preparation of ecosystem management plans for state parks and recreation areas, the program would seem to have applicability to state preserve management planning efforts also. The multi-disciplinary team concept, supplemented with information and expertise from other sources including the State Preserves Advisory Board, seems a logical approach for state preserves management planning and implementation activities. Specific preserves selected for planning attention could be recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Preserves Bureau personnel and approved by the Preserves Board. Finally, existing preserve management plans could be reviewed and possibly "re-formatted" to the ecosystem management format to help the effectiveness of future management activities therein.

Martha Maxon asked how this is different from the management plans that are now used for preserves.

John Pearson responded that this program uses a team concept involving people such as himself, a forester, wildlife biologist, etc. He related that in the past, Preserves staff developed the management plans and brought them to the Board for approval. He pointed out that an advantage in using the team concept is that staff can draw on the knowledge and expertise of others.

Ms. Maxon remarked that the team is lacking in cultural resources.

Mr. Scheffler agreed that the cultural area needs to be recognized and possibly added to the program.

Joel Hanes suggested allowing staff to use this concept for the next proposed preserve.

Jonathan Steege further suggested that staff use the concept for the next area to have plans written whether it be a park, recreation area, or a preserve.

Additional discussion took place regarding the process and various plans.

## **WINNISHIEK SADDLE CLUB REQUEST FOR TRAIL RIDE AT MALANAPHY SPRINGS**

Chairperson Schermer read a request from Candi Nelson, Winneshiek Saddle Club, for permission to ride through Malanaphy Springs twice each year, once in the spring and again in the fall. She noted that there would be approximately 50-75 horses/riders involved.

John Pearson stated that this club held annual horse rides on the area prior to it being dedicated as a preserve. He related that it is being brought to the department's attention for the first time even though they have had the ride for years. He noted that they enter the preserve on the north end and leave on the south end and there has never been any noticeable damage.

Larry Wilson asked if horseback riding is addressed in the management plan for the preserve.

John Pearson replied that it is excluded at this time.

Discussion followed regarding the area of the preserve that is used by the saddle club for trail rides.

Chairperson Schermer expressed concern with the trail crossing over an archaeological site where the road ends. She was also concerned with setting a precedent of allowing trail rides through the preserve.

Discussion followed regarding Bob Kurtt's management of the area and closing trails during wet weather; using the matrix when determining uses for the preserves; possibly using alternative trails.

Robert Kindwall stated that if there are no visible impacts from previous trail rides he cannot see where it would be detrimental to the preserve.

***Motion was made by Martha Maxon to deny the request for a twice-a-year ride through Malanaphy Springs preserve. Seconded by Diane Ford-Shivvers.***

Jonathan Steege suggested allowing the ride on a one-time basis and then do follow-up to determine if there are any impacts.

Martha Maxon commented that this would be getting into the same problems as at Brushy Creek and would use a lot of staff time for monitoring.

Discussion took place regarding archaeological and geological concerns and possible disturbance to the tufa deposits.

Joel Hanes stated that he would automatically discount a ride in the spring due to the wet season. He added that his job as a Board member is to protect the preserves and he would have to vote against the trail rides.

***Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to table Ms. Maxon's motion until the March meeting and ask for a geological assessment, then make a decision following the assessment. Seconded by Robert Kindwall.***

***Chairperson Schermer requested a roll call vote on Mr. Steege's motion to table. "Aye" vote was cast by Board members Steege, Kindwall, and Wilson. "Nay" vote was cast by Board members Maxon, Ford-Shivvers, Hanes, and Schermer. Motion failed on a vote of 4-Nay to 3-Aye.***

***Chairperson Schermer requested a roll call vote on Ms. Maxon's motion to deny the request for trail rides. "Aye" vote was cast by Board members Hanes, Maxon, Ford-Shivvers, and Schermer. "Nay" vote was cast by Board members Wilson, Steege, and Kindwall. Motion carried on a vote of 4-Aye to 3-Nay.***

Chairperson Schermer stated that before the Board grants future permission for trail rides they should ask a representative from the saddle club to accompany Bob Kurtt to the area and show him where they are planning on riding the trails. Subsequently, staff should ask Bob McKay, as well as seek informal input from Jean Prior, as to their thoughts on the potential impacts to the geological resources. Following these steps, the saddle club could submit a new request to the Board for a trail ride.

Diane Ford-Shivvers stated that she would like the club to be informed that there is a management plan for the area that excludes horseback riding and this is why they are no longer allowed.

Chairperson Schermer stated that she will write a letter to the saddle club and will also notify Bob Kurtt that the request was denied.

### **RESEARCH COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)**

Jonathan Steege reported that the Research Committee is proposing a new system for scoring research proposals that will be judged in three categories, those being: 1) the project's benefit to the state preserves system; 2) the feasibility of the study; and 3) the soundness of the methodology of the study. He added that any identified researchers would be looked at on an equal basis and no points would be given for their prior accomplishments. If they were not a qualified researcher the proposal would probably not be considered. Mr. Steege

stated that if two projects have the same number of points, the committee might possibly consider whether it is a priority subject or priority preserve to break the tie. He suggested this system be used this year and if there are concerns with the scoring, changes could be made in the future.

***Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to use the new system for scoring the FY 96 research proposals. Seconded by Joel Hanes. Motion carried unanimously.***

Chairperson Schermer asked how the committee feels about targeting some research money specifically for Hayden Prairie.

Mr. Steege stated that he would like to see where the discussion leads during the informal session on Hayden Prairie, following this meeting. The committee also would like to see if any proposals are submitted for Hayden Prairie or for prairie management in general.

Martha Maxon asked if the research committee would entertain a recommendation to earmark some of the funds for continuation of the intern's work in cataloging information.

Mr. Steege answered affirmatively noting that Mike Carrier should be consulted about offering that amount off the top, but he would like to see any other research proposals stand on their own merit.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Schermer adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m., Tuesday, December 20, 1994.