

**MINUTES
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD
DOLLIVER STATE PARK LODGE
LEHIGH, IOWA
SEPTEMBER 20, 1994**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ADVISORS ABSENT

Dorothy Baringer
Rebecca Conard
Kathy Gourley
Jean Prior
Daryl Smith

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Carrier
Daryl Howell

STAFF ABSENT

John Pearson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Schermer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

Chairperson Schermer administered the Oath of Office to new board member, Diane Ford-Shivvers and welcomed her to the State Preserves Advisory Board.

APPROVE AGENDA

The following adjustments were made to the agenda:

Add: Item #15 - Next Meeting

Add: Item #16 - Election of Chair

Chairperson Schermer noted that Carl Kurtz and Martha Maxon would like to address Item #7 dealing with Hayden Prairie.

Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Robert Kindwall. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Larry Wilson to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 1994, as presented. Seconded by Martha Maxon. Motion carried unanimously.

WITTROCK INDIAN VILLAGE

Mike Carrier stated that Waterman Creek has continued to erode toward the Wittrock Indian Village site for a number of years and the erosion increased in 1993. He related that last Spring a project was launched to permanently correct the problem. Rip-rap was placed along 750 feet of streambank on the north end of the preserve and gabion basket placement occurred along the west end of the preserve, costing \$42,000. A grant from SCS Emergency Watershed Protection program covered \$40,000 of the cost. The work was completed several weeks ago. Mr. Carrier distributed copies of a report by Maria Schroeder regarding the rip-rap and gabion work.

Robert Kindwall asked if there is public access to the site.

Mr. Carrier replied that there is no public access to the site without permission of the neighboring private landowner and noted that it is a sensitive archaeological site. He related that he has asked the landowner to provide a 50 foot conservation easement to DNR as well a 50 foot buffer around the preserve, and the landowner verbally agreed. Mr. Carrier added that he invited the landowner to the meeting today to sign the easement but he apparently could not attend. He indicated that if the landowner does not respond he will bring the issue back to the Board at the next meeting.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Daryl Howell provided the summary of preserves related work done by himself and John Pearson as follows:

Daryl Howell:

- Cooperation with Tamara Ross for collecting snails on cold air slopes
- Completed selection of slides for the program on State Preserves
- Hayden Prairie management efforts
- Visited Woodland Mounds, Bixby, Retz Memorial Woods, and Berry Woods
- Brushy Creek Trail inspection with manager and trail supervisor
- Answered routine requests for information about preserves, five which required information gathering and about 10 which were covered with existing printed materials
- Prepared photo display for the State Fair
- Preparation of agenda for September meeting

John Pearson:

- Brushy Creek trail study
- Organization and preparation of vegetation management at Hayden Prairie
- Contract preparation and administration

Mr. Howell added that he and John Pearson also did some tree removal work at Sheeder Prairie last week.

Mr. Howell stated that the intern has been busy on projects other than preserves while John Pearson is setting up some preserves work to be done. He related that the intern will be doing preserves related work longer than originally scheduled to compensate for the time now being spent on other projects.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Daryl Howell reported that contracts are written on three of the research projects and John Fleckenstein is working with the person doing the invertebrate study. That study will be contracted through the University of Minnesota.

HAYDEN PRAIRIE

Daryl Howell reported that several weeks ago staff worked at Hayden Prairie along with some excellent volunteer help. Volunteers included Joel Hanes, Jon Steege, representatives from the Prairie Network, and DNR staff. He related several clones of aspen were cleared out the first day, and the second day the west ditch was cleaned out. He noted that there will be several work days again at the end of September.

Martha Maxon stated that ever since she has been a Board member there have been a number of people comment to her about their concerns with Hayden Prairie and the aspen invasion there. She related that recently each Board

member received a letter from Carl Kurtz expressing concern about encroachment at Hayden Prairie. She provided background on Mr. Kurtz and his knowledge of prairie restoration. Ms. Maxon stressed that the Board has a responsibility to investigate the different viewpoints about Hayden Prairie. She introduced Carl Kurtz and noted that she asked him to make a presentation about his thoughts on this issue.

Carl Kurtz reviewed his long term interest in prairies. He presented views from Tom Toney, Missouri DNR, whom he noted has probably seen more prairie than any other person. Mr. Kurtz indicated that Mr. Toney noted when government or state management takes over a prairie they progressively degrade and lose their appeal, adding that was directly seen in Missouri last year. Additionally, Mr. Toney found that Wisconsin is in danger of losing their prairies to woody encroachment. He noted that because of low rainfall prairies to the West do not have the problem Iowa has. He related that the Board needs to ask what the long term goal is for Hayden Prairie and what stage of succession is being maintained. Mr. Kurtz stated that Mr. Toney has been watching Hayden Prairie for 10-15 years and has indicated, in his opinion, it is just a step or two away from ruffed grouse habitat. He discussed management techniques and related that there should be more management techniques used at Hayden Prairie. Mr. Kurtz distributed copies of a paper from Tom Toney covering the use of haying for prairie management.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the various types of prairie management techniques including haying, burning, mowing, grazing, etc., and effects of these methods.

Mr. Kurtz stressed the need to get local landowners involved and convince them that prairies have a value in the landscape, that they can be utilized, and there can be economic benefits from them.

Martha Maxon distributed copies of a communication from Paul Christensen and Daryl Smith regarding the management of Hayden Prairie. She noted that the Board should be aware of their concerns, particularly since Paul has studied the plants at Hayden Prairie for many years. She suggested that it would be nice to have them comment at one of the future meetings when the Board has more dialogue on this issue. She related that they are very concerned about haying and the timing for the haying.

Joel Hanes commented that he understood John Pearson is planning to manage Hayden Prairie more intensively and will be using various techniques. He expanded on John's efforts at Hayden this year.

Jonathan Steege spoke of accomplishments at Hayden Prairie over the past several years and related that the effect of those efforts will not show for several

years. He added that he would prefer to see a combination of management techniques used.

Martha Maxon suggested that additional information be presented at the December meeting and the Board make their recommendations at that time or at the March meeting. She added that perhaps consideration should be given to applying a portion of the research funds to monitor the types of management at Hayden Prairie.

REQUESTS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH REPORT

Daryl Howell reported that Doug Goldman completed his research on the Grass Pink survey and did not find any species. Tammra Ross, the ISU graduate student researching land snails, collected 67 snails from three preserves. Mr. Howell related that Ms. Ross will be doing lab work this fall and winter and will provide the Board will additional information when that work is completed. He stated that he is currently working with a couple of graduate advisors on possibly doing some genetic work on Discus, the federally endangered species.

MALANAPHY SPRINGS

Daryl Howell reported that in July a storm blew down 68 trees on or adjacent to the trail at Malanaphy. Bob Kurtt, the area manager indicated that it may be some time before the downed trees would be cleared off because a number of other state areas also had some severe damage. He estimated that over 200 trees are down on the preserve.

Director Wilson suggested contacting the local people who were opposed to the department cutting down the dead trees that were a potential danger and ask them to volunteer to help clean the trees from the trail.

Mr. Howell indicated that there were several groups who volunteered to help with maintaining the trails.

Chairperson Schermer stated that the Board could write a letter to the individuals who had previously written to Board members mentioning that they were willing to work on tree removal/trail maintenance and request their assistance.

Motion was made by Joel Hanes that the Board send a letter to the appropriate people asking them to do volunteer work in regard to the downed trees. Seconded by Larry Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

BRUSHY CREEK PRESERVE TRAIL

Daryl Howell stated that he previously sent a report to the Board, from John Pearson, updating the trail impact study presented at the June meeting. The report also provided an interpretive trail guide describing some of the sites to be visited on tomorrow's tour. Mr. Pearson, in his report, identified three additional monitoring stations which were set up by Dean Roosa. Those trails were on the east side of the preserve and are currently on a trail that was closed because of erosion ranging from a depth of 3-6 inches. One of the areas is on a fairly steep slope.

BRUSHY CREEK

Martha Maxon stated that she will not be able to tour the area tomorrow. She distributed a copy of a page from the final EIS which detailed what the major impacts of the lake construction would be to the preserve. She reviewed that the Board provided comments covering their concerns and those comments appeared in the EIS. Ms. Maxon noted that on tomorrow's tour the Board should observe the construction adjacent to the preserve boundary to see if there are any concerns in that area. She indicated that earlier today she and the project engineer toured the area and she felt that the Board may want to look at the west borrow and mitigation site, and the preserve boundary. She stated that one of the earlier concerns was with erosion into the preserve but she did not notice any erosion at this time. The construction staging site is along the boundary but there are not any visible impacts there. She pointed out that the boundary fence near the borrow site has fallen down and possibly should be fixed before any activity occurs in that area.

ROCKFORD QUARRY

Joel Hanes reported that he has spoken with Wayne Meyer, Floyd County Conservation Board, and their board did not feel they have a lot to gain by entering the quarry into the preserves system. They felt they would find themselves having to abide by rules not of their making and indicated they were not interested at this time. Mr. Hanes stated that he will keep in touch with them in case they ever have a change of mind.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chairperson Schermer distributed copies of a list of Research Committee members for 1994 and Long Range Planning Committee members for 1994. She noted that Jean Prior does not have the time to continue work on these committees and will submit a letter of recommendation for someone else to serve on these committees. Chairperson Schermer stated that Diana Horton was on the Research Committee and a replacement is needed for her position. She reviewed the purpose and duties of the Research Committee members.

Chairperson Schermer asked Diana Ford-Shivvers if she would be willing to serve on this committee and Ms. Ford-Shivvers responded affirmatively.

Motion was made by Robert Kindwall for Chairperson Schermer to appoint Diana Ford-Shivvers to the Research Committee. Seconded by Joel Hanes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jonathan Steege asked how the Board felt about the scoring method/procedure the committee used in handling the project proposal selections.

Joel Hanes stated that there should not be any scoring advantage for a particular category whether it be archaeological, geological, botanical, etc. He related that even though it was done that way last year, he would rather see it without a specific reservation.

Chairperson Schermer commented that the committee could recommend some priorities but not give extra points for a specific category.

Robert Kindwall suggested that if there is a special need or special problem an advantage could be given to that category at that time.

Daryl Howell stated that the RFP would have to spell out exactly what is desired for the projects.

Director Wilson stated that he objects to giving additional points for certain disciplines within the research community, adding that each project should be graded on its merits. He related that the Board could still identify projects they feel are priorities.

Joel Hanes commented that the Board might want to ask for someone to do a qualitative and quantitative study on Hayden Prairie. He added that this would be a perfect place to set up a research project.

Daryl Howell stated that if the Board feels strongly that a specific project should be done, it would be best to write an RFP for that project itself.

Chairperson Schermer asked Jonathan Steege if he would prepare a report on what would be involved in terms of cost, work, time, etc. for a study at Hayden Prairie.

Discussion followed regarding various studies done on state preserve areas.

Jonathan Steege indicated that he will meet with the Research Committee to review their procedures and what they might possibly want to change, and hopefully will be able to report back at the December meeting.

BOARD ADVISORS

Chairperson Schermer distributed copies of a list of current Advisors to the Board and related that there will be a replacement for Jean Prior to represent geology. She noted that Rebecca Conard teaches in Kansas nine months of the year and is not able to attend meetings, however, she spoke with Jan Nash who is a business partner with Rebecca and Jan would be interested in being a co-advisor. Additionally, Jan Nash would be able to attend the Board meetings.

Martha Maxon commented that Rebecca is willing to help and would be a good resource for the Board, but having Jan co-advise would be a good solution.

Motion was made by Larry Wilson to appoint Jan Nash as the official historical advisor to the Preserves Advisory Board. Seconded by Jonathan Steege. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding some areas that are not represented such as wetlands, woodlands, and fauna - mammals, amphibian, reptiles, butterflies, and insects.

Chairperson Schermer asked the Board members to think about who might have these areas of expertise and provide their names to the Board.

NEXT MEETING

The Board decided to meet in Des Moines in December, and following their regular meeting will hold a session for discussion on research needs for Hayden Prairie.

Discussion followed in regard to visiting the Loess Hills area in March.

The next meeting of the State Preserves Advisory Board will be Tuesday, December 20, at 10:00 a.m., in the Wallace State Office Building in Des Moines.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Chairperson Schermer called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Robert Kindwall stated that Shirley Schermer is doing an excellent job serving as Chair and he cannot see any reason to change at this time.

Larry Wilson nominated Shirley Schermer for Chair to the State Preserves Advisory Board. Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Shirley Schermer. Seconded by Robert Kindwall. Motion carried unanimously.

Joel Hanes nominated Robert Kindwall for Vice-chair to the State Preserves Advisory Board. Motion was made by Joel Hanes to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Kindwall . Seconded by Jonathan Steege. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to adjournment Mike Carrier introduced Greg Van Fosson, Area Manager of Brushy Creek State Recreation Area and Mike Schoneboom, District Supervisor. He related that they will lead the Board tour tomorrow.

BOARD TOUR

The Board was scheduled to tour Brushy Creek Preserve on Wednesday, September 21, 1994, beginning at 8:30 a.m. from the Brushy Creek Recreation Area Park Office.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Schermer adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m., Tuesday, September 20, 1994.