



# Dane County

## Minutes

### Park Commission

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Wednesday, May 27, 2015

5:30 PM

Donald County Park - Stream Restoration Tour  
Deer Creek Bridge  
1870 Sutter Dr  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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#### Deer Creek Bridge - 1870 Sutter Dr., Mt. Horeb, WI

#### 1. 5:30pm. to 6:00pm. (Approximate) Tour - Deer Creek Bridge, 1870 Sutter Dr., Mount Horeb, WI 53572

*Supervisor Dave Ripp welcomed about 15 people that turned out for a discussion on cold water stream restorations in Dane County. Ripp introduced Sara Kwitek and Pete Jopke as the tour presenters from the Land and Water Resource Department.*

##### a. Deer Creek Stream Restoration and Other Projects

*Jopke discussed the Deer Creek Restoration project and how a restoration project is developed. He discussed the involvement of many different agencies and organizations required to carry out these large scale waterway restorations. Jopke stated the key player is the landowner. Without a willing and committed landowner you won't have a project. Stream restoration projects not only improve the in-stream habitat for the trout and insects, but also other species such as turtles, snakes and many other animals that depend on high quality habitat. The surrounding easement area, the space we can work within, is also improved to grasslands and prairie buffers. Kwitek discussed the streambank easement program, number of stream miles that have been secured and how the program has been developed over the last 8-years. Kwitek discussed the importance in the maintenance and monitoring of these public easements. Southwest Trout Unlimited has taken on the voluntary role of monitoring and maintaining the easements.*

##### b. New Deer Creek Bridge

#### 2. 6:00pm. (Approximate) Park Commission Meeting - Pops Knoll Shelter, 1945 Highway 92, Mount Horeb, WI 53572

##### A. Call To Order

*Meeting called to order by Lunney at 6:10pm.*

**Present:** 6 - KYLE RICHMOND, DAVE RIPP, WILLIAM LUNNEY, DANIEL WISNIEWSKI, MARY SCHLAEFER and TOM THORESEN

**Excused:** 1 - CHRISTINE HAAG

*Staff present: Sara Kwitek, Darren Marsh*

*Others present: Vickie Peterson, Roger Parr, Matt Marty, Barb Hartman, Pat Schultz, Donna Thomas, Michael Burda, Phil Johnson, Carolyn Johnson, Tom Krauskopf, Bob Selk, Jim Hess, Tom Parker, Matt Krueger*

## **B. Consideration of Minutes**

[2015](#) 2015 MIN-096\_5-13-15 Park Commission Minutes

[MIN-096](#)

**Attachments:** [2015 MIN-096 5-13-15 Park Comm Minutes.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by THORESEN, that the Minutes of May 13, 2015 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 6 - Supervisor RICHMOND, Supervisor RIPP, LUNNEY, WISNIEWSKI, SCHLAEFER and THORESEN

## **C. Fund Transfers - None**

## **D. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)**

*None.*

## **E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None**

## **F. Presentations - None**

## **G. Reports to Committee**

## a. Southwest Trout Unlimited

*Matt Krueger, President SWTU Chapter, stated that their Chapter had 750 members. There are 21 TU Chapters around the State of Wisconsin. Their Chapter was established in 1969. Their mission is to protect and enhance cold water resources. Cold water resources are very important both environmentally and from an economic perspective. Environmentally these cold water streams are an indicator of the ecological health of our watersheds. These streams also attract many tourists to our region. Dane County is considered a leader in the protection and restoration of cold water streams. The County's programs to secure public access, restore the stream and then maintain these sites are the envy of the State. Starting in 2012 the SWTU Chapter has been an active partner with the County to maintain the public easements. Mr. Jim Hess, Chapter Conservation Chair, Mr. Bob Selk and Mr. Tom Krauskopf reviewed SWTU's volunteer stream maintenance activities. In partnership with Dane County, SWTU has developed an Easement Monitoring and Maintenance Program (also referred to as SWTU's Stream Keeper Program). SWTU has volunteer stream monitors for the public easements (County and State). Monitors evaluate the corridors for maintenance needs and perform maintenance activities as needed (i.e. cut and treat willow, box elder, etc.). SWTU also hosts 8 work days each year, putting in more than 800 volunteer hours a year conducting stream maintenance throughout the county.*

## b. Friends of Donald County Park

*Vickie Peterson provided an update on all the Friends events and activities. These activities included: Snowshoe Scurry, Take Your Pop to Pop's Knoll (annual Fathers Day event), Friends Run (part of the Park Series), Star Gazing, Tuesday Work Group, Horse Events, and appreciation events. Vickie discussed a few of the work activities that Tuesday Crew were working on. Donna Thomas and Sara Kwitek discussed the work that has gone into developing the new interpretive panels for the Park. Donna reviewed background for each of the interpretive panels. The plan is to begin installing the panels in the near future. Roger Parr, President, mentioned the number of miles of equestrian trails within the park and outside the park that are located on private lands. He also mentioned that one of the main concerns of the Friends was the Hitchcock Homestead and how it will be developed and preserved. Matt Marty discussed the results of a survey taken of the Friends, park staff and interested parties related to the preservation of the Foye Cabin Site, near Little Spring within the Park. Based on the survey it was decided that the Friends would preserve the site by placing stone within the restored foundation and delineate some of the walls with a low seating wall. The rock fill is a preservation measure to stabilize the site. The site will be used for passive interpretation of the cabin and farm that was once located along side Little Spring.*

## c. Endowment Report

*Lunney reviewed 2015 funding goals for the Friends Endowment and listed off the events: July 25th Wright Stuff Century Ride, August 14th Celebrity Challenge – Mad City Open, September 1st 80th Anniversary of Dane County Parks Celebration. The 80th Anniversary event is going to be promoted by the Parks Division throughout the year. Lunney also mentioned that there has been tremendous feedback on the new Volunteer Training Sessions that are being sponsored by the endowment. It's important that we solicit input from the Park Friends Groups on future training needs.*

d. Future Events

*Summer Trails Festival  
Saturday June 6, 2015  
Capital City State Trail  
Capital Springs State Recreation Area  
11AM-4 PM*

*Bring your "Pop to Pop's Knoll" Fathers Day Picnic  
Donald County Park  
June 15, 2014  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm*

*Friends Celebration Day and Prairie Chase Run/Walk  
Saturday June 27, 2015  
7 AM-7 PM  
Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy  
Orchard Heights Park, Middleton*

**H. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 10th.*

**I. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

*None.*

**J. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

*None.*

**K. Adjourn**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm*

**A motion was made by RICHMOND, seconded by THORESEN, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 6 - Supervisor RICHMOND, Supervisor RIPP, LUNNEY, WISNIEWSKI, SCHLAEFER and THORESEN

**3. 7:00 - 7:30pm. (Approximately) Optional Driving Tour**

a. Dane County streambank improvements and easements on the West Branch of the Sugar River and Primrose Branch.

*No one elected to participate in the optional streambank improvements and easements tour.*

*Respectfully submitted by Sara Kwitek. Minutes are subject to Committee approval.*