



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Park Commission

*Consider:*

*Who benefits? Who is burdened?*

*Who does not have a voice at the table?*

*How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, August 26, 2020

5:30 PM

Babcock County Park  
4601 Burma Rd  
McFarland, WI 53558

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4601 Burma Rd., McFarland, WI 53558

#### A. Call To Order

**Present:** 5 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP and  
TOM THORESEN

**Excused:** 1 - GRACE MORAN

*Youth Governance Program Member Present: Sam Kaufmann*

*Staff Present: Chris James, Sharene Smith, John Reimer, Darren Marsh*

*Others Present: Foundation for Dane County Parks - Gail Shea, Caryl Terrell, Mike  
Weber, Bill Lunney, Judie Pfeifer; Groundswell Conservancy Inc. - Jim Welsh; Town of  
Dunn - Ben Kollenbroich*

*Meeting called to order by Chair RIPP at 5:30 pm with all participants at least 6 feet apart  
and wearing masks.*

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020  
MIN-138](#)

PC MINUTES\_8-12-20

**Attachments:** [2020 MIN-138](#)

A motion was made by THORESEN, seconded by EICHER, that the Minutes of  
August 12, 2020 be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote: 5/0, YGP: 1/0

#### C. Fund Transfers - None

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

1. [2020  
RES-169](#) AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF VERONA FOR RESTORATION OF BADGER MILL CREEK

**Sponsors:** BARE, DOWNING, EICHER, HATCHER, JOERS, KRAUSE, MCGINNITY, RITT and KIEFER

**Attachments:** [2020 RES-169](#)  
[2020 RES-169 Fiscal Note](#)

**A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by BOGUE, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote: 5/0, YGP: 1/0**

2. [2020  
RES-170](#) AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE TOWN OF VERONA FOR BADGER MILL CREEK NATURAL RESOURCE AREA AND SUGAR RIVER NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

**Sponsors:** BARE, DOWNING, EICHER, ERICKSON, HATCHER, JOERS, KRAUSE, MCGINNITY, RITT and RUSK

**Attachments:** [2020 RES-170](#)  
[2020 RES-170 Fiscal Note](#)  
[2020 RES-170 MAP Rhiner Overview](#)  
[2020 RES-170 MAP Rhiner Subject](#)

**A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote: 5/0, YGP: 1/0**

**E. Items Requiring Committee Action - None****F. Presentations**

1. Groundswell & Town of Dunn for Dane County Conservation Fund Grant

*Jim Welsh, Director of the Groundswell Conservancy and Ben Kollenbroich, Planning and Land Conservation Director for the Town of Dunn, presented a Conservation Fund grant request for \$138,200 for a purchase of Conservation Easement on the 130 acre Heacox farm in the Town of Dunn. The property is located on the northwest side of Hook Lake and is within the County's Badfish Creek Natural Resource Area. The Easement would permanently protect 130 acres of farmland and establish a 300' buffer zone along 2200' of Hook Lake shoreline.*

[2020 RPT-242](#) HEACOX OVERVIEW

**Attachments:** [Heacox Overview](#)

[2020 RPT-243](#) HEACOX PRESENTATION

**Attachments:** [Heacox Presentation](#)

[2020 RPT-244](#) HEACOX CLOSEUP

**Attachments:** [Heacox Closeup](#)

**G. Reports to Committee**

1. Land Protection Town of Dunn

*RIPP asked the Commission if there were objections to having the Town of Dunn present on their Land Preservation Program prior to discussion of the Conservation Grant Project. Ben Kollenbroich, the Planning and Land Conservation Director, stated that the Town of Dunn's is a national leader in land preservation. The program dates back to 1979 when the community placed restrictions on how large a rural property must be for development of a hope site. The rule became 1 development right per 35 acres of land. In 1996 the community adopted the first voluntary Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program in the nation. The first property to be preserved through the program occurred in 1997. The program has the following goals:*

*1) Protect and buffer farmland and viable farm operations from the impacts of development, 2) Preserve and buffer significant natural features, scenic vistas, and historic, cultural, and archaeological sites, and landscapes from the impacts of development, 3) Manage and buffer the encroachment of neighboring cities and villages and development within the Town, 4) Create and maintain corridors of protected land 5) Foster a community that is supportive of a local food economy. The Town provides money for these development rights and brings in partners such as the WDNR, County, and USDA. The main partner brought in to assist on projects is the Groundswell Conservancy, Inc.*

[2020 PRES-028](#) TOWN OF DUNN LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**Attachments:** [Town of Dunn Land Preservation Program](#)

## 2. Dredge Project

*John Reimer reviewed Phase II Yahara River Dredging projects including dredging the River within the borders of Babcock County Park. He stated that not only will the sediment removal assist in the movement of water through the Yahara system but it will also help improve fish habitat and recreational opportunities. Reimer stated that Phase II is planned for 2021. Currently they are working on plans and specifications including where the dewatering site(s) will be located.*

## 3. Accessibility Improvements for Babcock Lake Access

*Chris James identified that Parks and the Foundation have teamed up on the Accessible Pier Project, and that the Foundation is heading up the fundraising efforts. An advisory group has been developed that includes the Madison Fishing Expo, Accessibility Wisconsin, Madison Spinal Cord Injuries, Inc., Take a Vet Fishing, and others. James stated that the largest project will be associated with Babcock County Park. New facilities and access points will be added for both access to watercraft and access to the water for fishing. The first improvements have already been made with the installation of two new accessible piers at the boat launch. Pathways will soon be added connecting to the new Babcock properties tied to Lake Waubesa. The goal is to create Babcock as the most updated and accessible location for people to launch and enter watercraft. The site will also provide good opportunities for fishing.*

## 4. History of Babcock Park

*Marsh stated that Stewart Lake County Park was the first County Park established in 1935. Babcock and Lafollette County Parks were added shortly after in 1936. Both Babcock and Lafollette are parks located at the outlets of the Yahara River, Babcock on Lake Waubesa and Lafollette on Lake Kegonsa. The properties were acquired to develop dams to control water levels of the lakes and improve navigation. The dams and locks were constructed in 1938. The sites immediately started to provide lake access for recreation. Caretakers were hired to manage the dams and locks, and the recreation use of the site. Camping became a big use of these parks. Babcock park still provides camping today and expanded boat access to Lake Waubesa.*

## 5. Foundation for Dane County Parks

*Bill Lunney introduced all the Foundation Committee Members present at the meeting. He provided a brief background of how this partnership with the County developed starting in 2012 with the first event in 2014. The Foundation's first goal was to grow the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment. The Endowment is over \$600,000. Resources from the Endowment currently support the Dane County Parks Volunteer program, volunteer training programs, and grants to the Friends groups. The Foundation helped initiate the Accessible Piers Program and is helping to fundraise for these projects. The Foundation has been 100% supported by volunteers up to this point, but in 2019 the Foundation received capacity building grants from the Schlecht Family Foundation, and the Madison Community Foundation to help build the organization. The money from the grant will be used for the next three years to hire staff and develop revenue sources to fund its operation once the grant money is gone. Two staff have been hired, Elisa Guerrero as the Foundation Coordinator who will manage the office, and Jess Hankey who will be working under contract to help with grants and fundraising opportunities.*

**H. Announcements - None**

**I. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

Virtual Meeting on September 9th, and a possible meeting at Indian Lake County Park on September 23rd.

**J. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda - None**

**K. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - None**

**L. Closed Session**

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by BROUWER, that the meeting enter into closed session. The motion carried by the following vote: 5/0

**Ayes:** 5 - BOGUE, BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair RIPP and First Vice Chair THORESEN

**Excused:** 1 - MORAN

*CLOSED SESSION: The Commission entered into closed session per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e): The Commission may go into closed session for the purposes of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.*

**M. Return to Open Session**

A motion was made by BOGUE, seconded by THORESEN, that the meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote: 5/0

**Ayes:** 5 - BOGUE, BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair RIPP and First Vice Chair THORESEN

**Excused:** 1 - MORAN

**N. Adjourn**

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by THORESEN, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote. 5/0, YGP: 1/0

Park Commission members toured the following locations. No official business was conducted.

New Babcock Lake Access Properties

*Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.*

*Respectfully submitted by Darren Marsh. Minutes are subject to committee approval.*