



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Tree Board

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

3:45 PM Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area 5720 River Rd,
Waunakee, WI 53597 (table repair area)
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Cherokee+Marsh+Natural+Resource+Area/@43.169471,-89.381646,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xccc7cf279927dda!8m2!3d43.169471!4d-89.38164>

Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area 5720 River Rd, Waunakee, WI 53597 (table repair area)

A. Call To Order

Present 7 - ED BARTELL, MARLA EDDY, ADAM HELMINIAK, Supervisor MICHELE RITT, KEVIN SHORT, JAY WEISS, and LAURA WYATT

Also present: Brian Wahl, Adam Alves, Jaedan Festge (Alves' alternate), Ron (member of public), Barbara Mathis, Matt Noone, Alex Moderhoek, Thomas Poppe, McKinzie Myska (Tree Board vacancy candidates)

Call To Order 3:49 pm

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#)
[MIN-250](#)

MINUTES 07.27.2021

Attachments: [2021 MIN-250](#)

A motion was made by EDDY, seconded by WEISS, that the Minutes be approved.
The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

C. Action Items

- *Introduce Tree Board vacancy candidates: Candidates Barbara Mathis, Matt Noone, Alex Moderhoek, McKinzie Myska, Thomas Poppe introduced themselves. Poppe withdrew his candidacy shortly afterwards as he had taken on another volunteer activity.*

At this time BARTELL introduced a MOTION to proceed directly to item D, gravel bed tour so that ALVES could leave directly afterwards and to take up the rest of the action items after the tour. MOTION by RITT, seconded by EDDY. MOTION passed unanimously with voice vote 6-0.

- *Discuss OA 2021-0A-020 regarding new leadership structure options: RITT reviewed the leadership ordinance amendment that would allow the Tree Board, with Chair BARTELL's departure to elect a new chair and vice chair, OR to change to a two co-chair and one vice-chair leadership structure as desired. RITT introduced the amendment to the EANR; it has passed that committee. It also has to pass the Extension Committee, which will not meet till September 14. Johnson will forward the Tree Board's letter of support for the amendment, which went to all County Board members earlier in August to the Extension Committee Chair for the September meeting. The Board cannot move forward with the leadership structure shift until the amendment passes the Extension Committee and the full County Board on September 23rd. Due to this, BARTELL asked for a MOTION to cancel the Tree Board's September meeting and postpone Action Item 3, election of a new chair until the October meeting at which time, the amendment OA 2021-0A-020 will ideally have passed and the Board can consider a new leadership structure or decide to remain with the current structure. At the Tree Board meeting on October 19 2021, the current Vice-Chair HELMINIAK, will be elevated to Chair, and can re-open the Action Item and elections can proceed.*

- *Election of new chair: Postponed until the October 19, 2021 meeting.*

D. Presentations

- *Tour the Kentucky gravel bed facility: ALVES gave a tour of the facility, explained how trees are procured and used, how the facility works, and how it is more successful in producing trees for Parks and other County plantings than traditional methods.*

E. Reports to Committee

- *Board Vacancy Applications: BARTELL explained to the candidates present that their applications will be considered in October and recommendations made to the County Executive's office. The Executive's office makes the selections and candidates selected by the Executive are forward to the full County Board for approval at an undetermined future meeting date as the item can be fit into their agenda. Candidates would be notified of their selection sometime later.*
- *Plan for Facilitating Education Opportunities for Schools: WYATT reviewed the process so far. She suggested putting new links on the Tree Board website for teachers as many resources already exist and there is no need to create new material, just to select and post existing material and make teachers aware of it. Materials from Steven's Point, Morton Arboretum, and the Arbor Day Foundation were suggested. WYATT reviewed the previous School Forest conversation – she was not able to reach the educators that are coordinating the program due to the pandemic and summer break. She was able to find out that here is paid staff and a support group that raises money to bus students to the School Forest. WYATT will try to reach educators again once school is in session.*
- *Dane County Climate Change Committee Meeting: Johnson attended this meeting representing the Tree Board and reviewed the highlights for the Board. Kathy Kuntz, Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change was looking for partners to address the canopy cover portion of the Dane County Climate Change Action Plan (DCCCAP) effort to monitor and enhance Dane County's rural and urban tree canopies. As the Board's mission does include tree policy, Johnson will continue to attend meetings. The Board will consider partnering with this effort, and what the Board's role might be, in a future meeting. Climate Change committee meetings: Johnson reported. WYATT reminded the Board that members had looked at Pennsylvania and Maryland state tree protection and preservation policies a couple years ago that EDDY had brought forth so the Board could review existing legislation. These measures included tree replanting to offset any trees destroyed. Other policies include incentives to maintain canopy, tree preservation ordinances and penalties. HELMINIAK suggested Board might be able to partner in an educational role, or leadership, or policy assistance. EDDY suggested the Board could have a role in creating or influencing policy. BARTELL cautioned if the Board takes this on it will take a major effort to move forward. RITT talked about formal vs informal participation or partnership with the DCCCAP. Would need to have a work group. EDDY and BARTELL will attend with Johnson Sept 23rd 1-3.*
- *Collaboration with Urban Tree Alliance to assist with Madison Canopy Project: Johnson had brought up this project during the Dane County Climate Change Action Plan meeting and suggested them as partners for the DCCCAP. ALVES talked about collaboration with Urban Tree Alliance to assist with Madison Canopy Project: agenda item for next meeting to discuss if Jeremy Kane from UTA should come talk to the Board about the project and potential for collaboration.*

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

- *Upcoming meeting dates; October 19, 2021, November 16, 2021, December 21, 2021.*
- *Friends of the Forest Recognition Program*
- *Website*

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by RITT, seconded by SHORT, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Johnson, pending board approval.