



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Environmental Council

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

2:00 PM

Remote Meeting: Call 1 877 568 4106; Access Code:
976-569-461

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The June 17th Environmental Council Committee meeting is being held remotely. The public can access the meeting by calling the number below. Once prompted, enter in the access code and you will be connected to the meeting.

NOTE: You will be placed on hold until the host joins.

United States (Toll Free): 1 877 568 4106

Access Code: 976-569-461

If you would like to register to speak, please fill out a registration form by clicking on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVBDWDM>

Registrations will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. Staff will then call you into the meeting when the item is before the committee.

A. Call To Order

Vice Chair, SEEL called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Member Jeff Soellner was also present as his term was extended until July 1, 2020.

Others Present: Dr. Claudio Gratton and Kate Thostenson from UW Department of Entomology, Mindy Habecker.

Present 5 - THOMAS EGGERT, Chair NATALIE EISNER, Supervisor JULIE SCHWELLENBACH, LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN, and Vice Chair PETER SEEL

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2019](#)
[MIN-504](#)

MINUTES FEBRUARY 27 2020

Attachments: [Minutes February 27 2020](#)

A motion was made by EISNER, seconded by SCHWELLENBACH, that the Minutes for February 27, 2020 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Action Items

1. Pollinator Protection Initiatives

Dr. Claudio Gratton, professor of Entomology at UW Madison reviewed the web-based pollinator habitat assessment tool and supportive educational materials that were jointly developed by the Environmental Council and his staff, Katy Thostenson. This tool was originally a simple paper assessment developed by a UW Sustainability Class project working with a professional guidance team consisting of members of the Environmental Council, Madison Pollinator Protection Task Force, WDNR, and the UW Arboretum.

Habecker will send a press release to the Executive's Office for review and release. Gratton will be on Wisconsin Public Radio next week and promote the tool as part of National Pollinator week. People can use their phone or tablet to take the assessment. People then receive their score, tips to improve their habitat and resource links. The assessment can be taken multiple times. It collects the data and will send it both to the University and to the Council's staff every two weeks.

Habecker updated the Council on the final round of pollinator educational gardens. The plants were delivered in early June and all the gardens have been planted. This included two at the Henry Vilas Zoo and McCarthy, Lake View Hill, Stewart Lake, Indian Lake and Prairie Moraine County Parks. Additionally the pilot School Pollinator Incentive garden was planted at Woodland Montessori School. This program will be revised after the pilot and then more widely introduced

A motion was made by EISNER, seconded by SCHWELLENBACH, that the pollinator habitat assessment tool be approved so it can be made live. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Budget Review

Habecker reviewed the budget which has \$14,503.53 in it and \$10,000 for the Capital Equipment grants.

A motion was made by EGGERT, seconded by SOELLNER, that the committee approve to let \$2500 remain in the budget for needed expenses with the balance being dedicated to grants if needed. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of 2020 Environmental Council Grants

Habecker will notify the applicants, develop needed contracts, and oversee other details.

The awarded grants are as follows:

Community Partner Grant Program 2020

—Aldo Leopold Nature Center \$665.00

Funds will be used to purchase communication equipment to help coordinate land stewardship activities with volunteers.

—Friends of Festge Park \$668.00

Funds will be used to purchase a portable electric 45 gallon tank sprayer to use with their All-Terrain Vehicle to deliver herbicides to help control invasive species

—Friends of Hoyt Park \$1000.00

Funds will be used to purchase professional services to conduct a prescribed burn in the park's prairies

—Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy \$1000.00

Funds used to purchase prairie and savanna pollinator seed mixes to provide more diversity and habitat quality and function

—Ice Age Trail Alliance \$1000.00

Funds will be used to purchase professional services to cut and treat an area of land choked with invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle

—Madison Area Master Gardeners Association \$756.00

Funds will be used to purchase prairie plants including grasses and forbes for restoring a natural prairie at the Dane County Lussier Family Heritage Center.

—Olbrich Botanical Society \$1000.00

Funds will be used to buy supplies that support the work of the Rose Garden Scout volunteers who scout for insect pests, release beneficial insects and provide education.

—The Prairie Enthusiasts \$1000.00

Funds will be used to help purchase a field and brush mower.

—Severson Learning Center, Cambridge School District \$510.00

Funds will be used to purchase native plants to add a native prairie to their outdoor learning center

—Woodland Montessori School \$251.00

Funds will be used to purchase materials to build a "Little Library" dedicated to pollinator education with materials in Hmong, English, Spanish, and Braille including visuals. This will support the pollinator educational garden in front of their school that is accessible to the local community and the school.

—Upper Sugar River Watershed Association \$663.00

Funds will be used buy supplies to help remove invasive species from hip boots at boot wash stations and additional tools and safety equipment for their brush cutter.

Total amount awarded for the 2020 Community Partners grants: \$8513.00

2020 Capital Equipment Grant Program

—Aldo Leopold Nature Center \$511.00

Funds will be used to purchase portable radios to ensure good communication and coordination for field restoration projects

—Anderson Park Friends, Inc. \$1100.00

Funds will be used to purchase a Landpride brush cutter and pallet forks to control weeds and expand access to the park's natural areas.

—Clean Lakes Alliance \$2489.00

Funds will be used to purchase turbidity tubes and thermometers to allow for more Yahara Lakes water quality monitoring by volunteers.

—Ice Age Trail Alliance \$2500

Funds will be used help purchase a DR field and brush mower to help control brushy invasive species like buckthorn, honeysuckle, and thistles that are encroaching on the trails.

—Olbrich Botanical Society \$960.00

Funds will be used to purchase sustainable and quiet landscape maintenance equipment including a battery-powered Stihl chainsaw, a battery-powered Stihl blower and rechargeable batteries for this equipment.

—The Prairie Enthusiasts \$650.00

Funds will be used to purchase a DR field and brush mower to help maintain brushy invasive weed species on the twelve preserves they are maintaining in Dane County.

—Town of Verona \$1130.00

Funds will be used to purchase a Stihl brush cutter, Indian pump backpack sprayers, and drip torches to help maintain their developing town prairie by their new Town Hall.

—Upper Sugar River Watershed Association \$660.00

Funds will be used to purchase a Stihl brush cutter to remove invasive species.

Total amount awarded for the 2020 Capital Equipment grants: \$10,000.00

2020 Awarded Grants in both programs = \$18,513.00

A motion was made by SOELLNER, seconded by SRIDHARAN, that the committee approve the funding of the 2020 Capital Equipment and Community Partners grants for a total of \$18, 513.00 The motion carried unanimously.

4.Revisions for 2021 Grant Process and Guidelines

In reviewing the grants, the following initial items came up to be discussed for potential changes to the 2021 grant application process.

Potential revisions to discuss:

- *Discuss if grantees should provide some manner of documenting volunteer time for the final report as another method of accountability*
- *Decide the appropriate way that staff time should be included in grant proposals. What are the suitable situations in which staff are immediately supporting grant funds or in-kind matches?*
- *Include in Guidelines to submit a separate PDF file for each grant application to prevent confusion*
- *Have a discussion about how to decide on whether a grant deserves funding for proposing an effective project even if there are application or organizational issues.*
- *Revisit language for \$250 limit. Are groups explicitly staying at \$250 or separating out purchases that would have exceeded \$250 to not submit multiple bids?*
- *Consider setting up a standard procedure for seeking further information or documentation as needed for proposals.*

D. Presentations

1. Announcements

Habecker presented on the Council's innovative pollinator work at a statewide virtual conference this week for Extension educators around the state. Due to COVID-19 and the delay of the grant award process, the Council will not have a field tour of grant projects this year.

E. Reports to Committee- none

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Habecker will set up a Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting for either the second or third week of August. Potential agenda items include: Revision of Pollinator Incentive Program for Schools and Communities, Revisions to the Grant Guidance Process, and Prairie Heritage Trail maintenance.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda - none

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - none

I. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

A motion was made by SOELLNER, seconded by SRIDHARAN, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Habecker, pending committee approval.