



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, October 19, 2021

3:45 PM

Virtual Meeting

A. Call To Order

- Present** 5 - MARLA EDDY, ADAM HELMINIAK, Supervisor MICHELE RITT, JAY WEISS, and LAURA WYATT
- Excused** 3 - ED BARTELL, ERNIE PEARSON, and KEVIN SHORT

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) Minutes.AUGUST.17.2021
[MIN-372](#)

Attachments: [August Minutes](#)

A motion was made by RITT, seconded by WYATT, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

C. Action Items

1. *Discuss OA 2021-0A-020 regarding new leadership structure options*

RITT updated Tree Board that the amendment passed the County Board meeting unanimously. The amendment is specific to Tree Board, with a leadership structure choice of a Chair and Vice-Chair OR two Co-Chairs and a Vice-Chair. Discussion ensued of new structure, current roles, members who might be interested.

A motion was made by WYATT, seconded by WEISS, that the current Chair/Vice-Chair structure temporarily and revisit the leadership structure after new board members fill the existing vacancies be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

2. *Discuss election of new chair*

A motion was made by WYATT, seconded by WEISS, nominated RITT for Chair and HELMINIAK for Vice-Chair be approved. The motion carried 5-0.

3. *Tree Board vacancy recommendations to Dane County Executive*

A motion was made by WYATT, seconded by EDDY, that HELMINIAK, RITT, and Johnson to send a letter to the County Executives' office recommending applicants Matt Noone, McKinzie Myszka and Alex Moderhock for the current Tree Board vacant seats be approved. The motion carried 5-0

4. *Prioritize initiatives and assign roles/responsibilities*
 - a. *Plan for Facilitating Educator Opportunities for Schools in Lieu of Arbor Day*
 - b. *Website*
 - c. *Potential Grant Projects*
 - d. *Friends of the Forest Recognition Program*
 - e. *Other*

A motion was made by HELMINIAK, seconded by EDDY, that Action Item 4 be moved to November agenda and table discussion for right now. Friendly amendment to MOTION to move Action Item 4 to November agenda WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE WEBSITE ITEM. MOTION to be approved as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

5. *Discuss PSA's*

Johnson will present a budget for PSAs for fall and available previous topics next meeting. EDDY will review previous scripts with Johnson. EDDY will contact Johnson re setting up a meeting to discuss which PSA messages to move forward with this fall.

A motion was made by EDDY, seconded by WYATT, to proceed with one of the previous PSAs for this fall with the same budget as previously (usually \$1000 per PSA). The motion carried 5-0.

D. Presentations

E. Reports to Committee

1. *Budget update*

Johnson reported that the Tree Board has \$2,826 left in the budget and detailed other expenses in the current budget report. RITT updated the Board on several budget-related amendments having to do with trees that she sponsored from the EANR Committee Oct. 14 meeting. These have all passed EANR and they will come before Personnel and Finance Committee on October 26 for a vote, then will be voted on by the full County Board. They are are: EANR-O-3 \$25,000 for Forestry LTEs for Dane County LWRD with priority to the current apprenticeship program, EANR-O-2 \$35,000 for Dane County Parks to increase invasive species management, and an amendment for \$10,000 for trees with advocacy of her youth governance intern to be planted on County lands and ultimately to diversify canopy in areas that are underserved. RITT hopes to expand that program not through the county budget through other work to add to the current program offering free native plants to communities and schools. Moderhock mentioned a program idea to reach out to UW Madison to have students plant trees and do some kind of tree purchasing program. The link to the EANR Oct. 14 meeting on Legistar is [https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?](https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=894620&GUID=C70DDF7B-27FB-43F4-BE7D-2B98B7843DCF)

M=M&ID=894620&GUID=C70DDF7B-27FB-43F4-BE7D-2B98B7843DCF . Johnson will send this link to Board members. WAHL asked if Dane County Housing Authority would be included in Dane County lands; RITT confirmed if it is Dane County lands, it qualifies. WAHL suggested these initiatives be included in the November discussion under Action Item 4 Prioritize initiatives and assign roles/responsibilities in the 'Other' category. RITT will present more in the 'Other' category in November focusing on tree equity/social justice.

2. Dane County Tree Canopy Working Group

Johnson sent the minutes of this county-based group that is focused on getting greater canopy cover in Dane County in areas of greatest need, keeping an equity lens in mind to Board members. She reported on the latest meeting summarizing a discussed a need for zoning language that more effectively supports trees in new developments, diversity in tree species, and tree preservation. Johnson mentioned Matt Noone's LiDAR maps showing significant canopy loss in the period 2010-2017. Johnson is emailing the link to the LIDAR map pdf. Minutes also included a discussion of targeting reforestation efforts for equity and climate health. ALVES had said the County plants 4000 trees a year and we are losing them faster than we can replant. Johnson will continue to attend meetings as well as Matt Noone and ALVES. A summary of draft outcomes/focus areas are 1. Measure tree canopy 2. Preserve tree canopy 3. Zoning updates that protect and preserve trees 4. Reforestation, including the co-benefits of those efforts. EDDY has been invited to participate by the committee as well. RITT and Johnson will meet to share further information between the DCTC Working Group and EANR projects to see if there are ways the Tree Board could support or engage with the other groups. RITT asked that this be an agenda item for November.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. *Upcoming meeting dates: November 16, 2021, December 21,2021.*

Johnson will work out next dates for 2022 and will have that ready for the November meeting. Meeting Items: DC Canopy Cover Working Group update, EANR amendments, trees and social justice efforts

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

At 5:16 PM HELMINIAK MOTIONED to adjourn. EDDY seconded. MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote.