

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RECREATION FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Sheboygan County Administration Building
508 New York Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

June 2, 2015

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Adjourned: 7:29 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Weidert, WI Department of Natural Resources; Aaron Brault, County Planning and Conservation Department; Jim Baumgart, Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Committee; Phil Mersberger, County Conservation Association; Thomas Epping, Sheboygan County Board; Mike Holden, Snowmobile Association; Dave Smith, Mike Ogea, Lil Pipping, Members at Large

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Te Stroete, County Board Chairperson; Scott McMurray, 3 Guys & a Grill; David Nett, County Conservation Association Designee; Jeremiah Dentz, Camp Y-Koda; Dan Schmahl, Town of Russell; Tim Chisholm, Dave Derus, Members at Large

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily (Vetting) Stewart, County Planning & Conservation Department; Robert Hall, John Nelson, Amy Odekirk, Elizabeth Wieland, Andrew Morris, Paul Boocher, Jan Nelson, David Johnson, John Ehmann

Mr. Brault called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Brault reported the meeting notice had been posted May 20, 2015, at 11:00 AM, and the meeting was in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Brault welcomed the group.

Approval of the April 27, 2015 meeting minutes – Ms. Pipping motioned and Mr. Epping seconded to approve the April 27, 2015 minutes. Motion carried with no objections.

Public input – None. Mr. Brault informed the audience that they would have the opportunity to speak during the review of each of their respective Stewardship applications.

Consideration of Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan –Mr. Brault explained that since there were no additional changes to the Plan since the open house, the Committee's approval of the Plan is requested so that it can be moved through the appropriate channels. Mr. Epping motioned to approve the Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan 2015. Mr. Ogea seconded. Motion carried with no objections.

Review and Recommendation of 2015 Stewardship Applications – Mr. Brault began by providing the Committee with an overview of the 2015 funding cycle. Seven applications totaling \$127,072 were received, exceeding the amount of available funding by \$12,072. Six applications were submitted under the project development category, with one application being for land acquisition.

Review and Recommendation for Bookworm Gardens. Mr. Brault provided an overview of the 2015 application from Bookworm Gardens. The organization requested \$10,627.50, and received a score of 17 as ranked by staff, which placed it 7th among the applicants. Funding would be used to manage the ravine at the site by removing invasive species, seeding, cutting down and removing trees, and installing natural wood fencing and informational signage, and it is a continuation of past Stewardship awards. Mr. Brault noted that staff recommends partial funding in the amount of \$3,628.00 for the Bookworm Gardens ravine management project. This includes funding for installation of a natural wood fencing. Mr. Brault explained the pros and cons of the project that staff developed.

The Committee discussed the Bookworm Gardens project. The representative from the organization answered some questions, and mentioned that it did not receive funding last year for ravine management efforts, which is why they were part of this year's application. **Ms. Pipping motioned to fund the Bookworm Gardens Stewardship application in the amount of \$3,628.00 for the installation of natural wood fencing. Mr. Epping seconded. Motion carried with no objections.**

Review and Recommendation for the City of Sheboygan Falls. Mr. Brault provided an overview of the 2015 application from the City of Sheboygan Falls and discussed the pros and cons of the project that staff developed based on the application. The City requested \$30,740, and a received a score of 24 as ranked by staff, which placed it 5th among the applicants. Funding would be used to seed and fertilize edges of a walking path, seed six acres of the property, purchase benches, move and plant trees, and for a stormwater management and erosion control plan. This is also a continuation of past Stewardship awards. Mr. Brault noted that staff recommends partial funding in the amount of \$23,073 for the City of Sheboygan Falls continued Westside Park development project. This includes funding for seeding six acres of land and for the development of a stormwater management and erosion control plan.

The Committee discussed the City of Sheboygan Falls project. Staff and the Committee presented questions regarding the City applying for funding for a permit to fill wetlands, when it stated in the past that it would not fill wetlands, which is also counterintuitive to the goals of the Stewardship program. The representative from the City addressed some questions, and stated the City plans to fill and mitigate some wetlands in the future, but not right now. **Mr. Epping motioned to deny funding for the City of Sheboygan Falls due to the ambiguity of the application. Ms. Pipping seconded. Motioned failed due to lack of majority. Mr. Ogea motioned to approve funding in the amount of \$23,073.00 on the condition that the City never fills the wetlands on the property; if they do, they will be required to pay back their Stewardship award to the County. Ms. Pipping seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Epping voting nay and Mr. Baumgart abstaining.**

Review and Recommendation for the Girl Scouts of Manitou Council Project. Mr. Brault provided an overview of the 2015 application for the Girl Scouts of Manitou Council project and discussed the pros and cons that staff developed based on the application. The organization requested \$24,000, and received a score of 30 as ranked by staff, which placed it 3rd among the applicants. Funding would be used to remove the dam at Camp Evelyn, for permitting, and for the engineering consultation and plans. Mr. Brault noted that staff recommends full funding in the amount of \$24,000 for the Girls Scouts of Manitou Council dam removal project.

The Committee discussed the Girl Scouts of Manitou Council project. **Ms. Pipping motioned to recommend full funding for the project at \$24,000. Mr. Ogea seconded.** Two representatives from the Girl Scouts addressed questions asked by the Committee, stating that the dam is no longer needed and the water quality and ecosystem would be improved after its removal. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Review and Recommendation for the Glacial Lakes Conservancy Project. Mr. Brault provided an overview of the 2015 application by Glacial Lakes Conservancy and discussed the pros and cons that staff developed based on the application. The organization requested \$6,804.50, and received a score of 37 as ranked by staff, which placed it 2nd among the applicants. Funding would be used to acquire a 90 acre conservation easement in the Town of Sherman. Mr. Brault noted that staff recommends full funding in the amount of \$6,805.00 for the Glacial Lakes Conservancy easement acquisition application.

The Committee discussed the Glacial Lakes Conservancy project. A representative from the organization was available to address questions. **Mr. Ogea motioned to recommend full funding in the amount of \$6,805 for the Glacial Lakes Conservancy project. Mr. Mersberger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Review and Recommendation for the Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation District Project. Mr. Brault provided an overview of the 2015 application for the Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation District project and discussed the pros and cons that staff developed based on the application. The organization requested \$7,500, and received a score of 23 as ranked by staff, which placed it 6th among the applicants. Funding would be used to restock panfish at Little Elkhart Lake. Mr. Brault noted that staff recommends full funding in the amount of \$7,500 for the Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation District panfish restocking project.

The Committee discussed the Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation District project. **Mr. Baumgarart motioned and Ms. Pipping seconded to recommend full funding of \$7,500 for the Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation District project.** A representative was available to answer questions, and provided background information regarding the application. He stated that Camp Anokijig has committed to continued monitoring of oxygen levels at the Lake. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Review and Recommendation for the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department Project. Mr. Brault provided an overview of the 2015 application for the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department project and discussed the pros and cons of the project that staff developed based on the application. The Department requested \$27,600, and received a score of 39 as ranked by staff, which placed it 1st among the applicants. Funding would be used to retain a consulting firm, which would develop a formal site plan and vegetation design of portions of the 328 acre site in the Town of Holland. Mr. Brault noted that staff recommends full funding in the amount of \$27,600 for the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department site planning and design project, contingent upon the Department securing the required matching funds.

The Committee discussed the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department project. Mr. Brault provided additional background regarding the application. **Ms. Pipping motioned to recommend full funding of \$27,600 for the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department project, contingent upon it securing matching funds. Mr. Mersberger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Review and Recommendation for the Town of Wilson Project. Mr. Brault provided an overview of the 2015 application for the continued development of Schinker Creek Park and discussed the pros and cons that staff developed based on the application. The Town requested \$19,800 and received a score of 27, which placed it 4th among the applicants. Funding would be used for purchase and delivery of a playground set. Remaining budget items would be provided as donations, including playground installation and base material, a wooden split rail fence, grill, ash disposal containers, tree planting, and a hand pump. Mr. Brault noted that staff recommends full funding in the amount of \$19,800 for the Town of Wilson continued Schinker Creek Park development project.

The Committee discussed the Town of Wilson project. A representative from the Town answered questions from the Committee. He stated that the playground would be fitness-emphasized. **Mr. Mersberger motioned and Mr. Ogea seconded to recommend full funding of \$19,800 for the Town of Wilson project.** Discussion followed regarding the applicability of the County's Stewardship program for items such as playground equipment, when the initial intent of the program was to fund activities such as those that resulted in land preservation. Committee members discussed the changing needs of the communities over the years, resulting in different types of projects being awarded. The Committee decided that the ranking and rating criteria used to score the applications should be re-visited to ensure it reflects the intentions of the Stewardship program. **Motion passed with Mr. Epping voting nay.**

Set Next Meeting Date – Staff will contact the Committee to determine the most suitable next meeting date.

Adjourn – Ms. Pipping motioned and Mr. Ogea seconded to adjourn. Motion carried with adjournment at 7:29 PM.

Emily (Vetting) Stewart
Recording Secretary