

# ASYLUM LAKE POLICY AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## Minutes

April 10, 2025

Members Present: Pete Strazdas, Chair; Cybelle Shattuck, Council Secretary; Steve Kienle; John Kreuzer; David Lemberg; Jay Emerson; Mark Weiss

Members Excused: Dave DeBack; Mike Weis, Tom Sauber; Matt Reeves; Tiffany Schriever; Paul Scott; Lynne Heasley; Mark Frever;

Guests: Paul MacNellis; Judy Huxmann

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

### **II. EDITING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 10, 2025.**

- There were no changes to the Agenda.

### **III. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2025.**

- Page one, under stormwater and research project, “9,000” refers to parts per million of chloride concentration in the stormwater.
- **Mr. Weiss, supported by Ms. Shattuck, moved approval of the Minutes with the stated change. The motion was approved by voice vote.**

### **IV. WELCOME CHARLES (JAY) EMERSON WHO REPLACES SILVIA ROEDERER.**

- Mr. Strazdas introduced Jay Emerson who is replacing Silvia Roederer as the Parkwyn Village Association representative on the ALPMC board.

### **V. FINANCIAL REPORT.**

#### **a. Asylum Lake Operations Financial Report.**

- Mr. Frever was not able to attend the April meeting but did provide the financial report to the Council.

### **VI. OLD BUSINESS.**

#### **a. Project Updates and Project Finances.**

##### **i. Storm Water and Research Project .**

- Dr. Reeves and Mark Kieser were not able to attend the April ALPMC meeting. They plan to attend the May meeting. They have been talking about the next steps in the stormwater research.
- The next steps might involve financial contributions from the Council and/or Michigan Department of EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) grant funds.
- Additional stormwater testing will likely have to wait until the next winter season. There has not been sufficient snow and ice to require road salt (chloride) this spring, so the chloride testing of the stormwater has been delayed.
- Mr. Strazdas provided a brief review of the stormwater project. The stormwater research findings have been published.
- A future addition to the stormwater system will process the stormwater to the west coming from the highway (U.S. 131). There was more road salt coming from the north than from the west and that is how the stormwater project was prioritized.
- Mr. Kreuzer raised a concern about any royalties in regard to the research project. Mark Kieser was not present at the meeting to respond, so it will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Mr. Strazdas mentioned that it is not likely there will be any intellectual property royalties from the stormwater project. The stormwater research was intended for publication/education rather than financial purposes. Kieser & Associates and WMU have the right to publish the intellectual property.
- Mr. Weiss mentioned that the process of obtaining a patent specifically for the stormwater treatment process would be difficult, unless it was something totally different than what was done in the past.
- The State funding was used for the construction of the stormwater treatment facility in the Preserve, not for the stormwater research project.

- The intellectual property for the chloride removal process is part of the public domain. Additional discussion on this topic was deferred to the May meeting when Dr. Reeves and Mark Kieser are expected to be present.

**ii. Ecological Maintenance.**

- The priorities for ecological maintenance in the Preserve were discussed in February as presented by Paul MacNellis. He has not submitted a proposed budget for proceeding with those priorities. It was suggested that the budget should be submitted to the Council at the next meeting.
- Mr. Kreuzer stated that volunteers are taking plant inventories of a specific grid in the Preserve. It would be helpful to have that data before the budget is discussed.
- Mr. MacNellis stated that there was an attempt at a prescribed burn in the Preserve Tuesday (April 8<sup>th</sup>). There was money in the budget for that burn.
- Dave Mindell and his crew from Plantwise focused on sections F3 and F8 in the Preserve, the two forest sections on the three-year schedule for prescribed burns.
- After the burn started, the humidity went up and the weather went “out of prescription”. A burn prescription lists all of the necessary weather factors required to do a prescribed burn.
- Also, the fuel moisture content was higher than expected, and the stable atmosphere did not allow the smoke to go up to the mixing height. The smoke from the prescribed burn was drifting down Parkview Avenue and the burn was stopped.
- Global warming has changed weather patterns and ideal circumstances for the burn are getting fewer and fewer. Summer burns are extremely smokey and there can be negative effects on the wildlife if a burn is attempted at that time of year. Spring and fall burns are preferable. The crew from Plantwise will attempt a second burn in the coming weeks.
- The Garlic Mustard pull is scheduled for Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> as part of the plan to control invasive species in the Preserve.
- Mr. MacNellis provided priorities to Bill Schneider from Wildtype for the invasive species he needs to work on in the Preserve for the next three years.
- Ms. Huxmann is training the volunteers to use the computer program that is available for the plant inventory. The volunteers will visit the Preserve weekly in the spring to work on the inventory.
- The grid consists of 1,000 meter by 1,000 meter squares that are marked off in the Preserve and that is what the volunteers are working with. There are colored ropes in the corners of the grids to mark the area. Mr. MacNellis suggested continuing with the inventory up until winter. Seeding was recommended for the woodlots.
- Mr. Strazdas will make sure there is money in the account to pay the contractors. There is money to pay for the burn. He needs to know how much money will be required for the plant inventory and seeding and for the eradication of invasive species in the Preserve.

**iii. Sign Committee.**

- No report.

**b. Council Discussion on Indigenous Peoples.**

- Skyler Wolverton provided a presentation on campus. He is a master’s student in the geography program at Western Michigan University. He has been looking for the best locations to reseed wild rice.
- Ms. Shattuck would like to work with someone from the Environmental Department of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band to do sediment analysis and determine if there has been wild rice at Asylum Lake.
- Wild rice could be part of the restoration in the Preserve at some point, if the right conditions exist. Wild Rice is sensitive to contamination. Indigenous people seeded wild rice in some areas where it did not occur naturally.
- Ms. Shattuck will send out draft materials to the subcommittee for updating the Council’s website to include information about indigenous people.

**c. Lake Water Level Update.**

- Ms. Huxmann reported that the fence around the beaver deceiver is collapsing and needs to be replaced with a round fence. Additional modifications might also be necessary. The south shore of the trail is just above the water level.

- On the other side of the lake is a washout hole by the tiered area. It had been repaired with concrete slurry that plugged up the hole. It was suggested that someone might need to investigate to find out if the drainpipe has shifted. Mr. Sauber will have someone take a video the drain.
- The spillway has four sections with 14" or 16" inch diameter concrete pipe. Water backed up and washed out the joint between the last section and the third section, which dropped down about two or three inches. Water is coming out by that area and causing a washout.
- Mr. Strazdas suggested hiring landscape staff at the university to do that work or look at WMU approved contractors for someone to do the work.
- Mr. MacNellis stated that the trails subcommittee has a solution to that problem that OCBA (O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates) designed and that needs to be done. The pipe is under the area that needs to be rebuilt. If the Council does the rebuild of the side where the fieldstones are displaced, they could have the pipe repaired at the same time, with the same contractor.
- The Council would like Mr. Sauber and Mr. Frever to pursue the issue with the pipe. If this project can be done with a small budget, WMU staff can take care of it. If a larger budget is required, a contractor, such as Lounsbury Excavating, might need to do the work.
- The Kalamazoo Nature Center hired a contractor to work on their beaver deceiver. The Council is requesting that Mr. Sauber and Mr. Frever follow up with the Nature Center regarding the contractor they hired.
- The original beaver deceiver pipe was 14" to match the drainpipe to Little Asylum Lake. Fulton Excavating was going to add a piece of 14" pipe, but they put in a 12" pipe extension instead. The pipes should extend out 40 feet rather than 20 feet to keep the silt from building up. Two pipes, side by side, might help get the lake water level down quicker.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS.**

### **a. Application for Preserve Use.**

- Dr. Lemberg took care of the latest application when he was in Hawaii. Mr. Frever discussed the application at the March Council meeting.

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING.**

### **a. The Council needs to approve a date.**

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Council will have a discussion in May about the possibility of skipping the June meeting. Dr. Emerson will not be available for the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **IX. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.**

- None

## **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

- Mr. MacNellis recalled that when the Council was created, money from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation was to be spent on maintenance in the Preserve but not on research.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT.**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.