V. WELCOME

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ZOOM ROLL CALL.

• A quorum of members was present, and the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND RECOGNIZE OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS.

• Steve Kienle is replacing Bonnie Alkema as the Parkview Hills representative on the Council. Mr. Kienle stated that he started walking in the Asylum Lake Preserve in the early 1990s. He relocated to Connecticut during his employment with Pfizer and then returned to Kalamazoo. He lives in the Parkview Hills neighborhood and feels that it will be a good fit for him to represent Parkview Hills on the Council.
• Cybelle Shattuck is taking Steve Kohler’s position on the Council, as the representative for the Institute for Environment and Sustainability. This leaves an at-large position open.
• Mark Weiss, the Director of Environment and Health and Safety at WMU, has been appointed to fill the at-large position. The person who is next in charge of that department will be the alternate and fill in for Mr. Weiss when he is not able to attend the Council meetings.
• Dr. James Penner from the Campus Planning Finance Council has resigned from that position and will no longer be a representative on the Council. The Faculty Senate President is looking for someone from the Campus Planning Finance Council to fill the vacant seat on the Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council.
• Dean Carla Koretsky selected Dr. Tiffany Schriever, Assistant Professor, Biological Services, Western Michigan University, to replace Duane Hampton when he is scheduled to leave the Council in the spring of 2023.
• John Kreuzer took Lauri Holmes’s place as the voting member from ALPA (Asylum Lake Preservation Association). Laurie Holmes is now the alternate from ALPA.

III. EDITING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2022.

• There were no changes to the September agenda, which was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2022 AND AUGUST 11, 2022.

• There were no changes to the May 12th Minutes, which were approved by unanimous vote.
• There were no changes to the August 11th Minutes, which were approved by unanimous vote.

V. WELCOME AND COMMENTS BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE JULIE ROGERS.

• After the stormwater remediation plan from Kieser & Associates was approved by the Council, the Council became aware of a funding gap that needed to be taken care of in order for the project to proceed.
• The Council approached Representative Rogers about state grant funds that might be available to fill the gap.
• The project now includes stormwater treatment and a proposal to extract road salt from the stormwater.
• Representative Rogers advised that a vote was taken on the budget on July 1st. She thanked the Council for having the foresight to start working on the stormwater project several years ago.
• This project might help areas of the state other than Kalamazoo and that is what made it a unique and innovative project. It will, hopefully, serve as an example for new best practices. Environmental groups are also enthused about this project.
• A request of $550,000 was made for the stormwater project, and the full amount was approved.
• Representative Rogers indicated that her conservative colleagues were not in favor of government handouts, but they liked the hard work and fundraising efforts that had already been done by the Council on this project. Jeff Brenneman at WMU also assisted with this project.
• Each member of the House of Representatives was only allowed to put in two funding requests for projects. There were 25 or 30 projects from Kalamazoo that were under consideration for funding. The other project that
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was funded was an affordable housing project for the NACD (Northside Association for Community Development) and that is a million-dollar project.

- Mr. Hampton commented that the proposed salt removal project for Asylum Lake is a high risk/high reward research project. If Matt Reeves figures out how to do the salt removal, there could be substantial benefits in the future.
- Mr. Strazdas stated that the research on salt removal will be published and that could be used as a building block for further studies on salt removal. He thanked Representative Rogers for her assistance.
- Dr. Matt Reeves will provide ALPMC and Representative Rogers’ office with updates on the salt removal project.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT.


Operating Budget.

- The report shows financial activity for August and part of September. On August 17th, Mr. Strazdas approached the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for $75,000 for the Council’s operating budget. That amount was previously approved by the Council. The check is on its way to the university. Those funds will cover the Council’s typical activities for the current fiscal year as stated in the five-year plan.
- Mr. Frever stated that tree work had to be done in the Preserve. There were also issues with porta potties that were tipped over at election time. At this point, the projects are on track to stay under budget.

b. Project Updates and Project Finances.

i. Stormwater Project.

- A faculty researcher will determine if a device needs to be installed at Asylum Lake for salt extraction. The researcher can also determine if there are any last-minute updates required for the storm water retention technique that has been proposed. Those details need to be included in the new bid specifications.
- This project will be bid out during the winter months when the contractors are not as busy. Before the end of this year, Kieser and Associates will need to offer any changes to the bid specifications. Kieser & Associates will present the final bid package to the Council before the bid is sent to any potential contractors.
- Mr. Hampton mentioned that Matt Reeves is likely in the preliminary stage of planning for the stormwater project.
- Mr. Strazdas asked for a meeting with the new Vice President of Research at WMU regarding the financial component of this project. After that meeting and before the next Council meeting, there should be some answers as to how the money will flow through the university to this project.
- Matt Reeves and Mark Kieser will be meeting to discuss the stormwater project and provide updates to the Council.

ii. Land Management Plan Committee.

- A draft plan was submitted from Justin Heslinga, the contractor for this project. Mr. Bassett wants to set up a meeting for the end of September or early October.
- Mr. Kreuzer mentioned that there needs to be additional focus in the Land Management Plan on how potential future issues can be mitigated. He will forward the draft Plan to the Council.

iii. Ecological Study.

- Orbis did the field work for this project. Two invoices were received by WMU staff. Orbis will write a report on the results of the study and provide that information to the Council.
- Mr. Frever advised that two invoices, totaling $17,997, were received for the work that was done by Orbis. There is a remaining balance of $5,003, which Orbis assumes will be used to pay them for the report they will provide to the Council.

iv. Ecological Maintenance.

- The $20,000 annual operating expense for ecological maintenance will be taken out of the operating budget. The next step is to engage Wildtype. Mr. Sauber will work with Ms. Chase, Mr. Bassett and Ms. Holmes regarding the details and next steps for this project.
- Mr. Frever reported that Wildtype started the invasives control on September 8th. He hasn’t received any invoices yet.
v. Sign Committee.
- Ms. Huxmann advised that there have been some discussions about signage in the Preserve. Updates will be provided to the Council at a future meeting.

vi. Trails Management Committee.
- Ms. Huxmann stated that the Trails Management Subcommittee met with OCBA (O’Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates) and received estimates on projects discussed at the last Council meeting. The subcommittee was tasked with bringing more details to the Council about the spillway. They have cost estimates for the five projects that were discussed.
- The committee will meet and create files with pictures, locations, costs, and draft plans and get that to the Council before the next meeting. In October the Council can discuss priorities for those five projects and then make a decision on which project they want to do first.
- The Council will need some time at the next meeting to review each of the five projects. They will also need more detailed bid specifications from the engineer before the Council can pay them to proceed with any of the projects.

vii. Water Quality Testing with WMU Class.
- Mr. Hampton was asked to get a message to whomever is teaching the water quality testing class that there is $200 available for projects. He stated that sometimes the class just doesn’t get taught for a while after someone retires.
- Ms. Shattuck mentioned that Mr. Kohler returned last spring and taught the class, but she was not sure what the plan is for the future.

viii. Garlic Mustard Pull.
- There was nothing to report.

- In March, there was some “land back” graffiti on the new signs at Asylum Lake. The Council response was to acknowledge that there is a lack of information about indigenous people at the Asylum Lake property.
- Ms. Shattuck’s students collected information about indigenous people at the Preserve property that could be posted on the Asylum Lake website. The information includes details about the plants in the Preserve, the use of fire for land management, and recognition of indigenous residents who lived on the land before it was used for farming.
- The list of suggestions for changes to the website was forwarded to Dee Sherwood, on the Native American Affairs Council for Western Michigan University, and John Rodwan, the Environmental Director for the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians in Southwest Michigan.
- Mr. Rodwan was pleased with the new text but suggested a few changes. He will look into the possibility of having a discussion about Native American representation on the Council.
- Ms. Shattuck suggested starting a conversation with the university and the three local Potawatomi bands (the Gun Lake Band, the Pokagon Band, and the Huron Nottawaseppi Band) to see if they would like to have a representative serve on the Council. The Council would need to adjust the bylaws, in the membership section, to reflect any changes to the representation on the Council.
- Reaching out to a tribal entity might involve people at a higher level than a professor since each band is its own governing entity.
- Ms. Huxmann suggested that one side of the welcome signs should not be blank. Maybe the tribes could be honored with information on those signs.
• A link could be posted on the signs at the Preserve. The link could take people to the Asylum Lake website where they could find more details about indigenous people who used to live on the land, which is now part of the Preserve.
• A suggestion was made to ask for direct participation from the tribal community if the link is posted. Mr. Strazdas could be included in that meeting because of his contact with Jan Van Der Kley, Vice President for Business and Finance, WMU.
• Participation by the local bands could be either representation on the Council or as an ad hoc committee.
• Mr. Lemberg stated that one of his former graduate students is the Environmental Director of the Nottawaseppi band. He offered to reach out to that person if the Council is interested.
• The Potawatomi bands are relatively recent inhabitants of this area. The Native Americans who were here before them also had an impact on the land and it might be advisable to mention that.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Applications for Preserve Use.
• No applications were received.
• Ms. Shattuck mentioned that Steve Kohler was one of the staff members who reviewed the applications for use of the Preserve before he retired. Mr. Lemberg offered to continue helping Mr. Sauber and Mr. Frever review the applications.

b. Voting Member Changes.
• Mr. Strazdas provided a brief review of the changes that have taken place recently with the membership on the Council. See item II above.

IX. NEXT ONLINE MEETING.
• The next on-line meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2022.

X. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.
• Mr. Lemberg forwarded an e-mail regarding availability of funding for exotic plant removal. Dean Koretsky informed Mr. Strazdas that she would share that information with her colleagues who might be interested in that grant opportunity.
• It appears there is grant money available for work the Council does, such as removal of Phragmites.
• Mr. Hampton requested an update regarding the beaver deceiver. Mr. Frever stated that Fulton Excavating provided an estimate of $6,500 to remove the 14” x 20’ pipe and replace it with a single HDPE 14” x 40’ pipe.
• Mr. Hampton, supported by Ms. Shattuck, moved to proceed with replacement of the beaver deceiver as outlined by Fulton Excavating. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
• Ms. Huxmann stated that the beaver deceiver seems to be working. She wondered if the beavers have moved on, since she has not observed any new beaver activity lately.
• Even if the beavers are not active in the Preserve at this point, there could still be issues with beavers in the future. Having the upgraded beaver deceiver could prevent future problems from occurring.
• People post pictures of the beavers on the Facebook page. A question could be placed on the Facebook page to inquire if people have observed any beaver activity in the Preserve lately.
• Ms. Huxmann inquired as to how the Council feels about individuals playing quiet music on instruments while visiting the Preserve. It appears to fit the definition of passive recreation.
• Ms. Chase suggested not encouraging that activity because there might be potential for problems.

XII. ADJOURNMENT.
• The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.