I. CALL TO ORDER AND ZOOM ROLL CALL.
   - Mr. Strazdas called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

II. EDITING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 12, 2023.
   - Discussion regarding the stormwater project was moved to the first item on the agenda. The amended agenda was approved by a voice vote.

III. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2023.
   - There were no changes to the Minutes, which were approved by a voice vote.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT.
      - No report.

V. OLD BUSINESS.
   a. Project Updates and Project Finances.
      i. Storm Water and Research Project.
         - Mark Kieser provided the following update:
         - Much progress has been made with the construction of the stormwater project, which is on schedule at this point. The contractor is waiting for items to show up at the site.
         - Representatives from Kieser & Associates have visited the site a number of times since the construction began. There were a couple of rainstorms during the first phase of construction, which is in the area away from the roadway. The infiltration trench has been installed.
         - The construction is up to the property line to the north. Once the next phase is completed, the Council might want to control foot traffic in that area.
         - Hoffman Brothers has erosion controls in place. The next phase of the construction project is by the road, next to the stream that flows under Drake Road and into Asylum Lake. Kieser & Associates will continue to work with Hoffman Brothers regarding the erosion control.
         - Ryan Schroder, Project Manager, Hoffman Brothers, provided the following update:
         - Phase 1 of the stormwater construction project in the wetland area was completed last week. Phase 1 includes the area from the outfall that runs into Asylum Lake to the infiltration trench. A forebay and new pipes have been installed. They will set a new structure that will eventually tie into the mechanical treatment devices.
         - Wetland matting was used to keep everything safe. As the contractor worked back toward the road, they installed erosion control measures and seeded the area. Permanent erosion control measures have been put in place and the contractor is waiting for the grass to be established.
• The contractor is waiting for the mechanical treatment devices through ADS, the manufacturer. Grand Valley Concrete will build the concrete part of those structures. The devices will probably be delivered next week.
• King Companies will add earth retention sheeting, which will allow Hoffman Brothers to dig a deep pit for the two mechanical structures. Then the catch basin by the road will be connected to the mechanical treatment devices and to the manhole that was installed last week. There are two to three weeks of construction remaining.
• The crew from Hoffman Brothers checked the silt fence. There are two rows of silt fence in critical areas to make sure the area is safe. The seeded areas have a mulch blanket, and it is staked down. Someone from Hoffman Brothers will check on the construction site Friday and/or Saturday during the rain event.
• The single edge silt fence failed the last time there was an issue with erosion in BTR2 (across from the Preserve) a couple of years ago.
• Ms. Heasley inquired if the public, students, and faculty have opportunities to do demonstrations of planting native plants, as part of the educational mission? Mr. Kieser cautioned against anyone accessing the construction area at this point.
• The seasonal grass, which was planted for stability with the soil, is coming up quickly, but the native seeds take a while to grow. There is soil with netting and it’s not easy to walk on, especially by the roadway. This is not a good time of year to get back to the construction site, especially with heavy equipment in the area, it would be hazardous. Once the heavy construction is wrapped up and the soil is stabilized, it might be safer to access the area.
• Mr. Strazdas mentioned that Kieser & Associates is taking pictures of the construction project, and maybe they could be downloaded for the students. You can’t see all of the pipes and storage tanks underground; pictures and diagrams might be more appropriate. Mr. Schroder will forward the pictures he has of the construction site to Mr. Kieser.
• Ms. Huxmann suggested that, as long as the site is so fragile, maybe signs should be installed to let people know they should stay away from the construction area. Maybe a simple diagram would let people know what is happening and advise that they need to stay away and give the plantings a chance to grow. There is a lot of curiosity.
• Mr. Schroder will have a safety fence installed and make sure there is no chance of a fall hazard.
• The Council is scheduled to meet next month. Mr. Strazdas suggested that will give Hoffman Brothers another chance to provide an update before the project is completed.
• Mr. Kieser visited the construction site with a reporter from WMUK. He hasn’t seen the article yet. They discussed the stormwater project but not the adjacent property to the north.
• Dr. Reeves provided the following update:
  - Dr. Reeves and his team were using a probe which had interference issues with ions and solutions providing inaccurate readings. They sent stormwater samples to the lab in order to provide quality control regarding the filtration process they are experimenting with.
  - They received good news from the lab, which showed that Dr. Reeves’ team had underestimated the removal efficiency of the experiments they are doing. The lab showed that the removal efficiency was as high as 90 percent. The proof of concept in the lab is more encouraging than they originally thought.
  - Dr. Reeves’ team finished another round of experiments (about 30 or 40) to map out the reactants and chloride removal efficiencies.
  - Next, they will look at the stability of the precipitant. Marwan Al Hinai, the graduate student working with Dr. Reeves’ team, generated precipitant that can be used in a series of experiments with DI (deionized) water, which has very few ions and will dissolve what ever it can. That will provide a maximum rate of dissolution. It is a good test to determine the stability of the precipitant.
  - There is another series of experiments that will be conducted after that. The experiments can already be useful in guiding the stormwater treatment system at Asylum Lake.
• Dr. Reeves’ team will look at how temperature affects chloride removal. They need to determine how fast the precipitants can form. Stormwater doesn’t happen all the time, it is episodic. There could be an issue with less than complete mixing in the field. There is high efficiency in the lab and the methodology has a lot of validity. It should work with good engineering and procedures.
• The team will determine what types of reactants can be added and the timing that is needed. They will also look at ways to promote the mixing of the reactants and settling of the contaminants.
• If the efficiency decreases from 90 percent in the lab to 50 percent in the field that would still be considered a success. Anything that can be done to remove chloride from the stormwater will be helpful.
• Mr. Strazdas stated that the Council voted to have Dr. Reeves submit a Notice of Intent for another potential grant. The Notice of Intent was sent to the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Representatives from EGLE would like the Council to proceed with a grant; the stormwater project has been placed in a high priority category.
• The grant money could be used to study the other outfalls into Asylum Lake. The current stormwater project is managing one of the worst outfalls but there are others.
• There are two stormwater areas of contribution to Asylum Lake. The one we are working on now comes from north of Asylum Lake. It was entirely untreated in the past. That was a small fraction of the stormwater.
• There is also a large stormwater flow coming off of US 131 and into Asylum Lake. That stormwater flow is west of Drake Road and it goes through filtration ponds which take out 70 percent or more of the sediment and much of the phosphorus. Kieser & Associates decided to target the stormwater from the north that wasn’t being treated.
• The filtration ponds by the highway are filling in with sediment and they need to be improved. Eighty to ninety percent of the stormwater runoff going into Asylum Lake comes from US 131. Road salt doesn’t settle out of the stormwater like sediment does.
• Chloride loading from US 131 is approximately 50 dump trucks vs. 10 dump trucks of chloride from Stadium Drive. Representatives from Kieser & Associates talked to someone from the State of Michigan about that issue.
• The question is how to capture the chloride (road salt) that is precipitated from the stormwater filtration process. Maybe it would be possible to pile up that salt and use it later? The state seems to be interested in that possibility. This would help restore the headwaters of the west fork of Portage Creek, which is a project the State of Michigan is working on now.
• Kieser & Associates would ask for about $525,000 in grant funds for design, engineering, construction and monitoring. That won’t be enough for the entire project but asking for more might make the grant proposal less competitive. The proposal needs to be submitted within the next five weeks.
• It is hard to find matching funds for the grant money from the state. The requirement for matching funds might be a 25% match. If that is the case, the requirement would be $175,000 in matching funds for a $525,000 grant.
• The matching funds could be cash or other investments that have been made. There are about ten ways to provide matching funds. The funds used for research and monitoring could be part of the match and that would be about $70,000. There are different ways to provide matching funds without coming back to the Council.
• Mr. Kreuzer inquired if the retention basin is owned by the WMU Foundation. Mr. Strazdas confirmed that it is. Mr. Kreuzer inquired if changes to the retention pond would be funded by the University or the Foundation or if the State of Michigan would request financing through the Kalamazoo Foundation.
• Mr. Strazdas stated that this grant opportunity just came up within the last 24 hours. There are a lot of details that still need to be figured out and there is no guarantee the Council will get the grant.
• Mr. Kieser advised that the land by the retention pond, near Business, Technology and Research Park #2 (BTR2) is unbuildable, so it’s easier to say it could be utilized as a retention pond.
Mr. Kreuzer inquired about the curb cut on Drake Road, above the existing construction area that spills into Asylum Lake.

Mr. Strazdas stated that the focus at this point should be the in-kind or cash matching funds. That’s what is needed for the grant proposal, rather than an engineering design or discussion about land use at this point. The state needs a concept with designated financing.

Mr. Kreuzer inquired if the request for funding requires specific geographical areas. Mr. Kieser advised that the state is not looking for anything but conceptual engineering at this point to give the idea of what’s proposed. If the grant is approved, they would want more details.

Mark Weiss, supported by Lynne Heasley, moved to have Mark Kieser proceed with the grant proposal for updating the retention ponds by BTR2, through the State of Michigan. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kieser stated that Western Michigan University would take the lead on this grant. Dr. Reeves would be shepherding the grant application through the university. Mr. Weiss mentioned that the Michigan Department of EGLE has used the stormwater project as a sample site to show how they want things addressed.

The grant proposal is due by November 15, 2023. The grant money would be available in September 2024.

**ii. Ecological Maintenance.**

- No report
- Mr. Strazdas offered to assist Mr. Bassett and Mr. Sauber to help stay on track with this agenda item.

**iii. Sign Committee.**

- Ms. Heasley offered to help with the signage for the stormwater project. The subcommittee will get the signs printed once they are approved. The subcommittee does have some money in the budget that can be used for signs.
- Mr. Sauber has a procurement card to pay for the signs. He will know if union members need to install the signs or if volunteers can help with that job.

**iv. Trails Management Committee.**

- No report

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

- No report

**VI. NEW BUSINESS.**

**a. Application for Preserve Use.**

- Dr. Lemberg received an application from the Michigan Geologic Survey. They want to do gamma sensor testing in the wells at the Preserve. He didn’t have any issues with the application, and he forwarded his comments to Mark Frever.
- Dr. Lemberg will follow up with Mark Frever and Tom Sauber. They need to have someone open the gate at the Preserve so the applicant can access the wells. He will forward the application to the Council for review.
- Ms. Heasley inquired as to how these applications normally get approved and if the applicants would provide a report to the Council about the work they are doing in the Preserve. Mr. Strazdas explained the process and commented that sometimes the Council needs more details and discussion. It is helpful for the Council to have a deadline for approval, so they don’t delay the applicant from getting their work done.

- Ms. Dever stated that the request to rezone the parcel by the northwest corner of the Preserve is on the Planning Commission Agenda for December 7, 2023. The Planning Commission would make a recommendation to the City Commission as to whether or not they think the request should be approved. The City Commission has the authority to issue a final approval on the request.
- The last time the applicant made a rezoning request for this property, the Planning Commission did not recommend approval of the request. The applicant chose not to proceed to the City Commission at that point.
- Mr. Kreuzer inquired about the Council’s position on the rezoning. Ms. Dever suggested a motion to state that the Council was not in favor of the rezoning request. Mr. Kreuzer inquired if the Council would provide a written statement to the Planning Commission and the City Commission.
- Mr. Kienle commented that the last response from the Council pertained to updates the City was making to the zoning code. The current issue is a rezoning request from the property owner.
- Ms. Dever stated that she thought the Council also submitted a statement about the previous rezoning request a couple of years ago, before she was on the Council. She was in favor of reviewing that statement. Mr. Strazdas will look for the letter and provide it to the Council. A subcommittee wrote the letter and provided it to the Council for review.
- Landowners adjacent to the property proposed for rezoning should receive a notice of the rezoning request from the City of Kalamazoo. Western Michigan University is an adjacent landowner in this case.
- The subcommittee worked with WMU administration to state their position on the previous rezoning request. It would be a stronger position if the Council and WMU submit a letter like they did the last time. Mr. Strazdas will find out if WMU agrees with the previous letter or if a new letter should be written.
- Ms. Heasley mentioned that the last letter was reactive and last minute. She suggested that it might be preferable for the Council to be in an anticipatory mode. If WMU administration is not willing to do that, then maybe the Council should provide their own perspective.
- Individuals can also write letters to the Planning Commission and the City Commission.
- Mr. Strazdas suggested that Ms. Dever could chair the subcommittee, the Council can respond to her. Ms. Dever was in favor of updating the previous letter.
- Mr. Kreuzer mentioned that WMU made an offer to purchase the adjacent property. He inquired as to what their intent was for that property. Mr. Strazdas offered to follow up with that question and report back to the Council.
• Mr. Weiss stated that the University would look at property adjacent to university property, so the university isn’t landlocked. The University might not have a particular use in mind for the property. Property adjacent to the University usually doesn’t become available.

• Mr. Kreuzer inquired if WMU might want to contribute funds for purchasing the property adjacent to the Preserve. Mr. Weiss couldn’t answer that question but stated that WMU has a specific process for reviewing opportunities.

• John Kreuzer, Steve Kienle, and Lynne Heasley volunteered to work with Sharon Dever on the letter writing subcommittee. The draft letter should be e-mailed to the Council for review. Mr. Strazdas will take the letter to WMU administration for review. Their position might be different than the Council’s position.

VII. NEXT ONLINE MEETING.
• The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023. Mr. Strazdas will not be available to attend that meeting. He suggested that Ms. Dever could chair the meeting.

VIII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.
• None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
• None

X. ADJOURNMENT.
• The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.