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 MARCH 14, 2024.
- Ms. Dever requested the addition of a discussion about a deer hunting near the Preserve.
- The amended agenda was approved with a voice vote.

III. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2024.
- There were no changes to the February Minutes.
- Mr. Scott, supported by Mr. Frever, moved approval of the Minutes as submitted. The motion carried with a voice vote.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT.
- Mr. Scott inquired if the $180,000 in the report was new grant funds added to the yearly budget. Mr. Strazdas advised that there have been no new grant funds received. Mr. Frever stated that the big number is the money moving around from the endowment to cover the research portion of the stormwater project.

V. OLD BUSINESS.
a. Project Updates and Project Finances.
i. Storm Water and Research Project.
- Mark Kieser provided the following updates on the stormwater project:
  - There has been a lot of stormwater monitoring going on in the Preserve. The contractor has not provided the as-built drawings for the stormwater treatment system yet. The drawings should show exactly what the contractor built. They need to provide final locations, elevations and final treatment elements and any changes that were made.
  - The contractor installed the fencing and made repairs to the trench at the far end of the stormwater system. The mechanical treatment devices (barracuda traps by the road) are doing a good job of removing particulate phosphorus and sediment from the raw stormwater. The stormwater system was built for phosphorus and sediment removal; the chloride treatment was added to the system.
  - After the stormwater moves through the mechanical treatment devices, it flows to an equalization pond that distributes the water through a 600-foot-long infiltration trench, where there have been some issues.
  - We are having a unique winter. Kieser & Associates monitored four stormwater events in January when there was snow and road salt on the roads. Then the snow melted, and the water went through the stormwater system. There were a couple of big rain events and some smaller storms after that, which provided opportunities for monitoring.
  - The stormwater system is built on inches of elevation difference, in terms of when the stormwater is stored and then moved. There is not several feet of cascading water, there is just a matter of inches between where the water is stored and then moved to the trench and infiltrating.
  - There have been a couple of soft spots on the lake side of the trench. Within the first hundred feet of the trench, there have been a couple of occasions when a portion of the berm has moved and water was diverted into the lake. The stormwater has been treated at that point. The contractor came out a couple of times to fix that issue.
  - The contractor was in the Preserve today and the system was full. the stormwater was being treated. Last weekend part of the trench was loose and some of the stones came out. That was repaired and is holding now.
  - The berm on the outside of the lake undulates as it goes down the trench. Wherever the outer portion of the trench was low, there was a lot of water up to the edge of the trench. Kieser & Associates has been talking with the
contractor about the need to repair the low spots in the berm. Also, the berm will need to be compacted if that was not already done. The stormwater system held up today and there were good flow measurements.

- Because the elevation thresholds are so tight, the contractor will need to provide the as-built drawings and meet the design standards and final designs that were provided by Kieser & Associates. The contractor has been cooperative and responsive.
- The Council approved a fence, which the contractor installed from Drake Road down past the pond. The pond is about four feet deep when it is full and it can be difficult to walk around that area. The fence has been effective but there are a couple of things on the fence that the contractor needs to fix. The fence has locked gates on both ends.
- There is a lot of foot traffic in the area where the old fence is on the property line. People pushed the old fence over and then walked on the neighbor’s property. Kieser & Associates installed a field camera in the area where the fence is because they knew a storm was coming. About an hour later, there were several people in the area, and someone broke the antenna on the camera.
- There is a sign at the end of the trench and the pedestrian trail that is barely attached. People are ignoring the sign. The stormwater system is protected but there are a lot of folks still walking through that area.
- Mr. Kreuzer stated that the ALPA (Asylum Lake Preservation Association) has talked about making additional signs regarding the foot traffic and posting them in the Preserve. He inquired if there were any other suggestions about dealing with the foot traffic and how the traffic might impact the stormwater remediation efforts. With regard to the weak spot in the retention area, Mr. Kreuzer inquired if anyone had considered putting core logs (coconut logs) in that area.
- The five-foot-high wire fencing from the old fence could be used outside the new fence, for a length of about 75 feet, and new posts could be added. The old posts broke. The fence is still on a section of the Asylum Lake property.
- John Jacobson from Kieser & Associates is meeting with the contractor. There is concern that they didn’t compact the berm. Something at the base of the berm, like a core log might be considered if the berm is intact. That might help minimize the velocity of the stormwater moving through the trench.
- Today the emergency outflow from the pond was lowered by about two to three inches to relieve the water pressure in the trench. The stormwater is getting the full treatment, but they need to look at the inside of the trench.
- With regard to the research portion of the stormwater project, there is more bench scale testing being done, but the results are not available yet. The chloride treatment project is progressing.
- In 2020, Kieser & Associates was monitoring U.S. 131 and Drake Road for chloride in the stormwater. It was up to 600 milligrams per liter of sodium chloride (road salt), which is high. After the storm in January of 2024, the chloride was up to 4,000 milligrams per liter from Drake Road. That is about 8,000 pounds of chloride from that one event. That is a couple cubic yards of chloride.
- After a big winter storm and the rain, the chloride went down to zero. There are mostly hard surfaces draining into that area; the storm water isn’t going through a grassy area. In other storms, the chloride was similar to the numbers that were measured a few years ago.
- Kieser & Associates had conference calls with representatives from the State of Michigan and determined that a Rule 97 permit is needed. They have an application package ready to go for that permit, but they are waiting for a response from the EGLE (The Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy) attorney to provide the confidentiality agreement that Kieser & Associates requested.
- Details are being discussed about how to dose the stormwater and what materials will be needed. Two 55-gallon drums of sodium aluminate will be needed. They will also need calcium hydroxide, which can be purchased at Lowes.
- They have asked for four pilot events, which will be covered under the Rule 97 temporary permit. The first event will be dosed at about half of the rate, which would be the optimal treatment rate, to see if the desired reaction occurs. The 55 gallon drums will be brought to the site and liquid will be pumped into the stormwater system. There will also be a 200 gallon vat of calcium hydroxide that will be mixed and then injected for an hour. It will be monitored as it goes through the system. There will likely be a lot of milky-looking precipitate in the equalization basin.
- During the second event, they will have one additional item, which is polyacrylamide, which is a coagulant. The precipitant is fine and has a milky appearance. It will settle out more quickly if the coagulant is added. It is easier to work with than the real fine powder and will be about the size of a BB.
- Maybe there will be a couple more opportunities to test the stormwater system in early to late April, if there is any more snow this year. There have been high chloride levels in May in previous years.
The first treatment will take one hour, and then maybe the second treatment will last a couple hours. That will cover the peak flow of chloride into the system.

- Mr. Weiss inquired if the State of Michigan is aware of everything that Mr. Kieser shared with the Council. Mr. Kieser advised that they are. Kieser & Associates notified Keith Pung and Mark Frever when the breach occurred in the trench. Kieser & Associates are operating under the soil erosion control permit at this point. The monitoring is funded through the research grant from the Council.

- Mr. Frever referred to the sodium aluminate in the 55-gallon drums. He inquired as to how quickly the content of the drums will be drawn down. Mr. Kieser advised that the sodium aluminate will be used at a rate of about 20 gallons per hour so less than half a drum. They might also use five gallon carboys, which would be just enough for the event, but they don’t want to leave those on site.

- Kieser & Associates needs a permit from the City of Kalamazoo for temporary parking in the bike lane to load and unload equipment for the stormwater system. They are hoping to dose the stormwater for four hours. They will store the bags of calcium hydroxide and mix them on site.

- Mr. Hampton thanked Mr. Kieser for being the catalyst that helped move this project forward.

- Mr. Strazdas commented that this is a unique project and there will be trial and error. The goal is to make sure the job is done correctly.

### ii. Ecological Maintenance – Continue Discussion on Part-Time Consultant.

- The Ecological Subcommittee (Judy Huxmann, John Kreuzer, Pete Strazdas, Tom Sauber and Mark Frever) met and provided comments to the Purchasing Department regarding the bid document. There were seven bidders and they responded back to the Purchasing Department that they received the document.

- The deadline for bidders to submit questions is March 21st. The questions will be sent to the Purchasing Department. The Purchasing Department will have three days to answer. If there are questions the Purchasing Department can’t answer, the subcommittee will provide answers. The final documents are due to the Purchasing Department on April 10th.

- There is a matrix for selecting the low-qualified bidder. After the Purchasing Department provides approval, the Council can interview one or two of the low-qualified bidders. The Council will convene to discuss the budget for this project.

- The bidders are experienced in ecological studies and management. The subcommittee and the Council are not allowed to reach out to the bidders, but the Council can communicate with the Purchasing Department.

### iii. Sign Committee.

- Mr. Kreuzer stated that more signs will be installed at the remediation area to deter foot traffic. Mr. Sauber has the signs and will discuss strategic locations with the subcommittee.

### iv. Trails Management Committee.

- Mr. Sauber reported that his staff made repairs to the trail by the Parkview parking lot where there were some erosion issues. They put the eroded material back in place and tamped it in. This is a temporary fix; more material will be added later.

- There were huge potholes on Cherry Lane, off Drake Road, that the workers filled in with stabilizer. They also fixed an area down the hill from the woods that was eroded. As you turn left by the beaver lodge, there is another eroded section of the trail. The workers brought in a lot of material to repair that spot; it was in bad shape.


- Ms. Shattuck will set up an appointment to talk with people from Nottawaseppi Huron Indian Band. Some members of that band will be coming to campus to do a water ceremony on the 27th and, hopefully, they can meet in person at that time.

- She asked who would maintain the Asylum Lake website now that Jennifer has moved on. Mr. Frever stated that a new executive secretary will be starting Monday. While she is getting up to speed, there is a backup person in the FM service center who can add minutes to the website and change PDFs.

### c. Asylum Lake Water Level.
• Mr. Sauber reported that Fulton Excavating cleared debris from the beaver deceiver pipe. The water level went down significantly, and the north trail can now be accessed. The silt has been building up more at the entrance to the pipe. The beaver deceiver pipe was cleaned out every four days during December and January.
• Holes will be drilled on the side of the beaver deceiver pipe to help prevent further issues with clogging. A special water-proof drill is needed for that job and it is expensive. Mr. Sauber will try to rent a drill for that project. The beavers might figure out how to plug the end of the pipe, they won’t plug the holes on the side.
• Mr. Hampton mentioned there is a chance that drilling holes in the side of the pipe might not be enough. It is possible that a different pipe will be needed. The idea would be to replace the pipe with something permeable and the beavers would not be tempted to block it the entire length. The pipe might need to be installed higher up from the bottom of the lake.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Application for Preserve Use.
• There were no new applications received for use of the Preserve.

• Mr. Strazdas thanked Sharon Dever for her involvement with this issue. The final draft of the letter was sent to Mr. Strazdas. He sent the letter to WMU administration. They sent it back to him with concerns as to why the Council is sending the letter if there is no active rezoning application with the City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission at this time. He inquired if the Council would prefer to send the letter or not.
• Ms. Dever commented that the rezoning is not an active issue at this point, but it will continue to be a threat to the Preserve. She was in favor of sending the letter to the City of Kalamazoo. Mr. Kreuzer agreed.
• Mr. Weiss stated that he was not sure about sending the letter at this point if there is no active application. He inquired as to what would happen if there is an active application in the future, would the Council resend the letter at that point? Sending the letter now might appear as if the Council is trying to predict the future. The Council should react when someone requests a zoning change.
• Mr. Kreuzer commented that the rezoning will continue to be an issue; the former Vermeulen property, adjacent to the Preserve, is for sale. He suggested being proactive and getting the letter in front of the Planning Commission and the City Commission.
• The current property owner will sell the property for as much money as possible and the buyer will want to rezone the property for commercial use. Ms. Dever commented that anyone who buys that property will argue for commercial use in that location. Why would the Council not send the letter stating concerns about that potential rezoning?
• Ms. Dever, supported by Ms. Roederer, moved to have the Council send the letter to the City of Kalamazoo, stating the Council’s concerns about the proposed rezoning of the former Vermeulen property adjacent to the Preserve. The motion carried unanimously.
• Mr. Weiss stated that he had no objections to sending the letter, but he was thinking strategically about the best time to send it.
• Mr. Hampton commented that if Mr. Tehrani (the current owner) wants to sell the property for 12 to 15 million dollars and the Council sends the letter to the Planning Commission, the letter is on file as a matter of public record. A potential buyer would have access to the letter stating that there are concerns about rezoning the property for commercial use.
• Mr. Strazdas will send the letter to the Director of Community Planning and Development, the City of Kalamazoo administration and the City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission. He thanked Ms. Dever and the subcommittee for their work on the letter.

c. Deer Hunting on WMU property.
• Ms. Dever mentioned a story in the news about a deer hunter on WMU property. She thought the university was strict about not having weapons on their property. She inquired what anyone else at the meeting knew about the situation.
• Mr. Sauber stated that a hunter poached a buck on WMU property. The hunter posted information about the deer online and that’s why he was caught. The deer was on the BTR2 (business, technology and research) property, which is across the street from the Preserve.
• There was a brief discussion about the lack of punishment for poaching a deer on WMU property. The hunter might have been warned for trespassing.
• Mr. Kreuzer inquired if there are no-trespassing signs posted between the end of the BTR2 property and where the WMU foundation property starts. Mr. Sauber will check on that tomorrow, but he thinks there aren’t any no-trespassing signs in that location. Mr. Freer stated that he has only seen no trespassing signs on the old trailer park property, which was on the WMU Foundation property, across from the Preserve. There aren’t any no-trespassing signs posted in the Preserve. The BTR2 park has a public road for people to access the medical facilities in that location.
• Mr. Strazdas suggested calling 911 if someone is on WMU property with a gun. Maybe the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) should be called, they might have fines for poaching. Ms. Dever stated that the DNR was involved.
• Mr. Hampton inquired if there is a way to avoid a recurrence of the poaching incident. Maybe signage is all that can be done. WMU property is private property and is not available for hunting. He inquired as to how a warning could be sent to potential hunters.
• Mr. Scott inquired about who reported the poaching incident. Penalties for poaching used to be severe. Mr. Sauber stated that the fine was $1,300 plus a $1,000 restitution charge to the DNR, for a total of $2,300. If the deer was a trophy buck, the fine would have been $18,000. It was a 12-point buck that was poached on the BTR2 property so there was a question as to whether or not it was a trophy buck.
• It is illegal to hunt in the City of Kalamazoo. The BTR2 park is not in the City of Kalamazoo, but it is WMU property. The article doesn’t say who reported the incident. The hunter said he got the buck at Gull Lake but someone figured out it was the buck from the BTR2 property.

VII. NEXT ONLINE MEETING.
• The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2024.

VIII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.
• Ms. Roederer inquired as to the status of the fire meeting. Mr. Sauber stated that he met with Dave Mindell from PlantWise and they walked the parcels of land that were considered for the prescribed burn. Mr. Mindell submitted a proposal for the burn, which will cost $4,875.
• There are two areas proposed for the prescribed burn, including 18 acres in the S2 grassy area, which is in the northeast area of the Preserve before the slope that goes down to the lake. Adjacent to that is section F5, which is a forest area that is also part of the burn proposal.
• Because of the current, unusual weather conditions, vegetation has already been growing and this is not a typical burn season. The Council needs to proceed as soon as possible. Mr. Sauber stated that the current proposal is less money and less area than the previous burn.
• Ms. Roederer, supported by Mr. Kreuzer, moved to proceed with the prescribed burn at Asylum Lake Preserve as proposed by Dave Mindell from PlantWise at a cost of $4,875. The motion carried.
• Mr. Strazdas stated that the insurance is in place as well as the contractor. Mr. Mindell is the last contractor who did a burn for the Council. Mr. Sauber will send information to the Council about the proposed burn. He will be the contact person for the burn.
• Mr. Strazdas suggested having the burn boss work with the City Fire Marshall. He also needs to work with Paula Davis at WMU to get a press release out to let people know why there is smoke in the Preserve.
• Ms. Heasley requested an e-mail when the burn dates are set to let the Council know when this project will occur.
• Mr. Sauber stated that a tree was hung up by the beaver lodge. He waited for a big storm and the tree came down on its own. It didn’t hit the beaver lodge. Mr. Sauber’s crew cut up the tree.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
• None

X. ADJOURNMENT.
• The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.