

1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

1000 ISLANDS COMMITTEE

City of Kaukauna

Nature Center Building

1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna



Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present White, Breitzman, Eggleston, Timmons, Hietpas, Manion, Jakel, and VanBerkel

Not Present West

Also Present Brad Garrity and Cassandra Kohls

Jakel called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. A quorum was present.

Public Appearances None

April 16, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes

White moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Timmons. Motion carried.

March (Revised) Financial Report

VanBerkel asked about the UVB light donation. Garrity explained that the donation was received from Assistant Naturalist Benson's parents. He also noted that restricted funds were used to purchase seedlings for the annual seedling sale and were later reimbursed by Kaukauna Utilities. Manion moved to approve the revised March Financial Report, seconded by VanBerkel. Motion carried.

April Financial Report

Garrity noted that the office supplies line item included the cost of the annual Adobe license. White moved to approve the April Financial Report, seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

Correspondence None

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

Hietpas reported that the Nature's Images Art Fair was successful despite the rainy weather. About half of the art vendors were unable to attend. In addition, approximately half of the leftover meat from the food stand spoiled after being accidentally left out of the freezer. Vendor feedback indicated that sales were good despite the rain. The basket raffle was well received and raised just under \$1,500, and the free-will donation bake sale was also successful, raising approximately \$350.

Garrity thanked Hietpas and the Friends Committee for their coordination of the event. He noted that 40 vendors had registered this year and thanked the basket donors. Hietpas thanked Kohls and Garrity for their behind-the-scenes work. Timmons commented that the timing of the art fair was favorable.

April Naturalist Report

1000 Islands participated in the JET program through KHS again this year. JET student Tyler Baeten volunteered at the Nature Center.

Payton Chevalier was hired as the naturalist intern and will begin on May 26. She will work through mid-August and receive credit through UW-Oshkosh. The naturalist internship is intended to provide a well-rounded experience, including regular check-ins, goal setting, micro-conservation projects, and exposure to management and administrative duties. Payton will attend the June meeting to introduce herself to the Committee.

Earth Day Wellness Saturday drew approximately 45 Girl Scouts, who participated in geocaching, hiking, and a raffle. The Grounded and Resilient Moving Meditation program led by Becky McMorrow had no attendees, but connections were made for potential future programming. Garrity plans to continue working with McMorrow on future offerings.

River View students created "Reducing Environmental Impact" posters for the runoff display at the nature center; the most impactful will become permanent. White appreciated River View artwork throughout the center. Park Charter kindergarteners attended papermaking at 1000 Islands with help from Committee members and four Fox Valley Technical College students. West De Pere brought over 275 students for multi-day Fox River Ecology programs.

Logan Hanaway assisted with seedling pickup, and Garrity thanked Kohls for her support. Total seedling sales exceeded \$6,000 through April, with seeding costs around \$4,900. Next year, staff plan to reduce hardwood seedlings and increase shrubs; Hietpas suggested adding Arborvitae. Remaining seedlings were offered to Kaukauna Utilities employees.

Logan Hanaway and VF Corporation employees spread gravel on the Nelson Overlook trails, with materials provided by the City Street Department.

Heavy rains left standing water on the property for over a month, with mud in the Sugar Shack indicating high water levels. The boardwalk was undamaged, with only a 3-foot section briefly flooded. Bumpouts and swamp pans held up well. Hietpas inquired about erosion under the swamp pans; Garrity reported no concerns.

Gonnering planted maple and spruce seedlings and installed tree tubes to deter deer.

The water service line to the Nature Center developed a new leak, though a previous repair remained intact. Kaukauna Utilities and the City Street Department coordinated a contractor to install a new line, requiring rock removal. The \$5,500 cost was covered by surplus funds from the capital front entrance project. Council has approved the front entryway project, with construction expected to begin in late summer and take 1–2 weeks. New entry door key fobs are included in the project.

Hietpas asked about the Eagle Camera project. Garrity reported staff are obtaining three quotes for Phase 1 (Habitat Camera), with an initial estimate of \$10,000. Phase 2 (Nest Camera) will require fundraising. Permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be required if work is done Nov–July due to nesting season. Flood risks are prompting reevaluation of camera battery backup plans.

Sub-Committee Meetings

Admin-Finance Sub-Committee

No meetings are scheduled. VanBerkel noted the committee may not have authority to make financial decisions, and Manion questioned whether regular meetings are required. Garrity will review the bylaws and report back to the Committee.

Education Sub-Committee – No meeting.

Building and Grounds Sub-Committee

The sub-committee has not met but is intended to continue reviewing and prioritizing projects. Garrity noted it will play a key role when Outagamie County begins the gully erosion and streambank restoration project.

Old Business

Garrity announced Jakel's resignation as Committee Chair, with her final meeting in June. The Committee will fill her position and then the other vacancies. Breitzman agreed to serve as Chair, and a new Vice-Chair will be elected at the June meeting.

New Business

Goats will return to 1000 Islands on June 8. Breitzman met with Farmer Bonnie of Mulberry Lane Farm, who may attend the June 9 PBS *Wisconsin Life* filming. Producer of PBS *Wisconsin Life*, Kelly Saran, and host, Angela Fitzgerald, have coordinated with the goat team. The Center will provide lunch for the crew, and Mayor Penterman will be invited. Experienced goat watchers and Community Enrichment team members will assist during filming. City Council approved the goats.

Good for the Center - None

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Manion moved to adjourn the May 21, 2026, Committee Meeting at 7:24 PM. Seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls