1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

1000 ISLANDS COMMITTEE

City of Kaukauna
Nature Center Building
1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna

Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present West, Timmons, Hietpas, Zornow, VanBerkel, Eggleston, and Breitzman

Not Present Manion and White

Also Present Brad Garrity and Cassandra Kohls

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

Public Appearances - None

September 17, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes
Garrity stated a correction to change the increase in the contractual services budget from $100 to $1,000. Eggleston moved to approve the minutes with the correction; Hietpas seconded. Motion carried.

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

September Financial Report
Eggleston asked about temporary payroll. Garrity stated it is for intern pay. Hietpas motioned to approve the September Financial report and place on file, seconded by VanBerkel. Motion carried.

Correspondence - None

Friends of 1000 Islands Report
Hietpas reported that the Friends' next meeting is scheduled for October 19. Friends recently provided funding for Eagle Days sponsorship and the 1000 Islands bussing subsidy program, which helps schools offset transportation costs for participation in 1000 Islands programs. Friends also contributes $5,000 annually toward 1000 Islands operational expenses. The Friends is actively recruiting additional Board members.

VanBerkel inquired about Hietpas' role on the 1000 Islands Committee. Garrity explained that the Friends President position on the Committee will remain vacant until a designee is appointed to represent the Friends organization at Committee meetings. He further noted that while Hietpas may attend meetings and provide reports, he is not eligible to vote because he is no longer a sworn Committee member. VanBerkel clarified that the Friends President, or designated representative, serves as an ex officio member of the 1000 Islands Committee.

September Naturalist Report
Garrity thanked Friends of 1000 Islands for sponsoring the bussing subsidy program.

Kaukauna Utilities will sponsor the 2027 Seedling Sale.

A new copier was purchased through the City's contract, resulting in significant cost savings for the Nature Center.

Junior Naturalist program increased from one program each month to two programs each month.

Kaukauna Public Library and Scouts offered a Survival Series.

Focus on the Fox (FOTF) Updates:
- The Papermaking program was moved from its traditional early October timeframe to September. Excellent volunteer support was provided by the Kaukauna High School (KHS) Key Club to help run the event, though overall public attendance was lower than the previous year. In appreciation of their efforts, Garrity provided pizza for the volunteers.
- The scheduled FOTF Campfire and Fishing Day was canceled due to rain. The KHS Fishing Club was contacted but was ultimately unable to reschedule.
- The AMCOR FOTF trash cleanup event was successfully rescheduled following an initial rainout. The event drew 16 volunteers, primarily community members, which was down from the 35 to 40 volunteers originally anticipated on the initial date. A total of 29 pounds of trash was collected during the cleanup.

Outagamie County Health Department came for a teambuilding day which included naturalist-led crayfishing and a separate program on their own.

Beekeepers Brian and Paula Jacobs, accompanied by Megan Knuth, presented a Honey Extraction program featuring an extractor demonstration and honey tastings for children. Jacobs also sold honey products at the event. Garrity noted that a gift card was purchased for the presenters in lieu of a standard speaker fee.

Volunteer Updates:
- White volunteered to assist with hikes on two days while Garrity was out.
- Several volunteers, including Danah Stumpf, Kim Kaufman, and Assistant Naturalist Benson removed thistle and cleared paths in the gardens.
- A high school student, Ethan Shalkhauser, volunteers during open hours for 1.25 hours each day.
- Outagamie County Development and Land Services volunteers removed debris, secured the goat fence, and cleaned the papermaking equipment.
- SOAR volunteers helped clean inside the Center.
- Katrina Moe has been completing regular volunteer service at the Center in alignment with her FVTC co-op program.
- A volunteer from USI Insurance participated in invasive species removal as part of the company's Corporate Day of Service at the Center.

New compasses were purchased for the Orienteering program.

The Center's grease trap was cleaned.

NACEL Open Door rented the building for their annual meeting.

Goats from Mulberry Lane Farm were on site through October 5. A full report will follow at the next meeting.

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Entryway Capital Project Status:

- The project is currently tracking on schedule. Painting is fully completed. Garrity approved the removal and replacement of the ceiling after verifying the quote aligns with the budget.
- Crews will begin subfloor leveling followed by flooring installation.
- Hietpas requested clarification on the completion date. Garrity clarified that although the contract bid targets October 31, final deliverables may carry over a few days into November.

Administrative/Finance Updates
The committee reviewed the September Endowment statement and 3rd Quarter report.

Building and Grounds Updates
Eggleston attended the Property Walk on October 8. During the walk, Garrity noted that the observation deck and bridge need repair. Eggleston commented on the property's beautiful views. Garrity also observed that, unlike other portions of the property, the central portion of the Hoersch property has a dense canopy and relatively little buckthorn.

Old Business

- **1000 Islands Committee Bylaw Updates**
  Garrity confirmed that copies of the proposed Bylaws were provided at the last meeting. Regarding Article II, VanBerkel recommended consolidating Item 1 and Item 3 to read as follows:

  "The object of this Committee shall be to advise staff on the policies, programs, and regulations governing the 1000 Islands Environmental Center, and shall approve and forward the budget for recommendation to the Common Council."

  VanBerkel moved to approve the proposed bylaw updates with the correction to consolidate Item 1 and Item 3 noted above. West seconded. Motion Carried.

New Business - None

Good for the Center - None

Next Committee Meeting
The next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment
There being no further business, VanBerkel moved to adjourn the October 16, 2026, Committee Meeting at 7:11 PM. Seconded by Zornow. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls

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