1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

1000 ISLANDS COMMITTEE

City of Kaukauna
Nature Center Building
1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna

Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6:30 PM

MINUTES

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

Not Present Manion and VanBerkel

Also Present Brad Garrity and Cassandra Kohls

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

Public Appearances - None

August 20, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes
West moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Hietpas. Motion carried.

August Financial Report
Zornow moved to approve the August Financial Report; seconded by Eggleston. Motion carried.

Correspondence - None

Friends of 1000 Islands Report – No report

August Naturalist Report
Garrity reported that Eric Gonnering and Kathryn Benson celebrated two years at the Nature Center, and intern Payton Chevalier's last day was August 22. Over the summer, Payton taught and assisted with field trips, updated the toddler space, developed a brochure concept, and designed an interactive insect display concept. The display fabrication is being completed by Eagle Graphics, with installation planned for late 2026 or early 2027.

Summer programming featured numerous crayfishing events and a new Girls in STEM field trip focused on environmental issues, which received positive feedback from the Boys and Girls Club. FairyWalk drew 300 to 400 attendees, and the Nature Center offered a pinecone birdfeeder craft for approximately 200 participants. The Kaukauna Public Library handled event marketing. Hietpas asked about funding for the birdhouse workshop, and Garrity noted it was covered through the operational budget.

Planning for 2027 field trips is underway. While KASD participation has been lower than in previous years, April and May dates are already full. A new campfire option is being offered during lunch breaks to encourage winter field trip participation.

Furnace and air conditioning tuneups have been completed. The front entryway remodel is scheduled to begin September 21 and finish by mid-October. The front entrance will be closed during construction.

Randee Mooney completed her Girl Scout Gold Award project, which included a pollinator garden kiosk and the installation of milkweed and monarch signage.

Garrity reported that Eagle Scout, Evan Jahnke's crayfishing platform project is progressing. The platform was built off-site, and removable stairs were added to the design at staff request. Evan will work with the City Street Department to install the platform near Konkapot Creek.

Gonnering is obtaining quotes for the Eagle Camera project. A $1,900 donation from the Firecracker 5K was received to support the project. Phase 1 is fully funded, with Martin Systems of Green Bay selected for installation. The habitat camera will have a 450-foot viewing range. Staff are coordinating with Kaukauna Utilities and planning a stakeholder meeting. Installation is expected before February 2027.

Phase 2 of the Eagle Camera project will add a nest-facing camera and is estimated to cost $20,000. The project will require solar panels and battery backup and is tentatively planned for June through September 2027.

Garrity reported receipt of a $10,000 Community Foundation donation. A portion of that donation will be used for the switchback project. Any additional unrestricted donations from the Community Foundation will be directed toward Phase 2 of the Eagle Camera project.

In response to a question from Zornow, Garrity stated that the cameras will be purchased and owned by the Nature Center, with an expected lifespan of six to seven years. Eagle camera footage will be livestreamed on YouTube, with donation opportunities available to help offset operating costs and future upgrades. This is anticipated to be the first eagle camera on this side of Wisconsin.

Garrity reported that a recent sewer backup was traced to low-flow toilets not flushing enough water. Public Works inspected the lift station and confirmed the cause. Staff also purchased a post-hole auger and a second chainsaw with a larger bar.

The August endowment statement was provided for committee review. Committee members questioned the administrative fee calculations.

Timmons accepted reappointment to a three-year term, and West's appointment was approved by the School Board. Hietpas announced he will be stepping down when his term ends on October 15, 2026.

The committee reviewed the provision in the 1000 Islands Committee Ordinance that designates the Friends President as a member of the committee. Because the Friends of 1000 Islands operates under the 1000 Islands Committee and in light of Hietpas's resignation, several options were discussed.

Garrity announced that the annual committee property walk is scheduled for October 8 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Participants will meet at the kayak launch and tour the Hoersch property and remediation project area. A project map will be provided.

Old Business – None

New Business
Garrity shared the proposed By Law updates to Article 6. Voting will be held at the next meeting.

Good for the Center
Garrity reported that Cassandra Kohls updated the Legacy Wall. The previous design required annual printing costs of approximately $500. To reduce expenses and allow for real-time updates, a

large-screen television was purchased for $150. A second display provides information about giving opportunities, including Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) and legacy giving.

Memorial and legacy donations of $100 or more are recognized with a name listing on the Legacy Wall, while memorial donations of $300 or more include both a name and photo. Memorial tree and bench purchases are recognized with the loved one's name and photo displayed on the Legacy Wall.

Garrity announced that goats from Mulberry Lane Farm are scheduled to arrive on September 21.

In response to a question from Eggleston regarding budget changes, Garrity stated that contractual services increased by $1,000 to reflect anticipated janitorial cost increases. Despite this adjustment, the overall budget decreased by approximately $1,300. No changes were made to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Next Committee Meeting
The next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment
There being no further business, White moved to adjourn the September 17, 2026, Committee Meeting at 7:22 PM. Seconded by West. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls