

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2025

Members Present Hietpas, Jakel, Rumbuc, Eggleston, Manion, White, Breitzman, and West

Not Present Van Berkel, and Pautz

Also Present Brad Garrity, Cassandra Kohls, and Terri Vosters

White called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. A quorum was present.

Public Appearances None

January 16, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

Manion moved to approve the January 16, 2025, meeting minutes; seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

The Committee reviewed the January financial report and Donation Report. Garrity stated Friends donated the Eagle Days collection bin proceeds to 1000 Islands. The donation will be utilized to repair the popcorn machine. Eggleston requested a 2024 Year End Endowment Statement. Eggleston made a motion to approve and place on file the January financial report and donation report; seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

Hietpas reported that preparations for the Pancake and Porkie breakfast are underway, with a sign-up sheet available at the Nature Center. Art Fair applications are open, and Hietpas plans to increase the number of vendor booths from 50 to 55.

Naturalist's Report

Garrity reviewed the Naturalist Report. Eagle Days attendance was slightly down from last year. Kim Cackowski from the Kaukauna Public Library provided a good program. WFRV interviewed 1000 Islands staff. More donation boxes will be placed out for the event next year.

The Junior Naturalist program was successful with about 10 students attending each session. Students will create a toolkit to teach their skills.

Boardwalk construction paused due to weather; bridges are built, land sections remain. Trails were disconnected for 5 days.

The nature center siding replacement is getting underway. Coordination with the Street Department is ongoing, with materials planned to be staged on the track. Eggleston inquired about the scope of the project. Garrity confirmed the whole building is being resided. The nature center roof was inspected by Security Luebke. The roof is structurally sound but needs replacement soon. Areas were noted to have bare spots, raised nails, and missing granules.

Garrity shared Gonnering's idea for a skating rink at 1000 Islands. The Street Department offered to donate a used liner from Horseshoe Park next winter.

Gonnering participated in the City of Kaukauna Safety Committee meetings. He suggested fixing the bridge by the kayak launch; a temporary fix is in place, with a new bridge planned when weather improves. Materials will come from Radtke.

Staff requested a crosswalk at the Valley Trail on Dodge St. Manion estimated \$25,000 for a lighted crosswalk. A bike lane with outlets at Dodge St was discussed.

A bird diorama display was completed with help from Diane White, Kat Berge, Deb Jakel, Penni Pautz, and Eric Gonnering. Board members were thanked.

Outagamie County Land Conservation Department is writing a cost-share grant for gully erosion and agricultural runoff, proposing a step pool project.

Garrity coordinated the Bald Eagle Nest Watch program and is a nest watcher at 1000 Islands. Eggleston suggested sharing the program on social media. Hietpas suggested installing a camera on the eagle's nest on 1000 Islands property.

Admin and Finance Sub-Committee

No report

Education Sub-Committee

No report

Building & Grounds

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

Friends is accepting volunteers for Pancake and Porkie Breakfast. Friends will purchase supplies. Flyers have been handed out. Eggleston posted in a newsletter. A quarter-page ad was posted in the Post Crescent in Kaukauna and Wrightstown.

Hietpas announced that sap collection will start this weekend. Garrity stated 1000 Islands staff will be assist with sap collection. Hietpas also plans to raise maple syrup prices and proposed changes to the syrup labels and bottles.

Good of the Center

The Committee Member listing was reviewed.

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on March 7, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, White moved to adjourn the February 20, 2025, Committee Meeting at 7:29 PM. Seconded by Hietpas. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls, Administrative Assistant