

Natural Resource Advisory Group
8.24.2023 Minutes

Present: Betsy Knowles, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jason Ludwigson, Ruth Nissen, Bill Waller

Guests: Greg Watson

I. Old Business

- A. Minutes from 7/20/23 approved
- B. Review/follow-up Migratory Bird Day - Information needs to be entered on La Crescent Migratory Bird page
- C. Signage update (Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park, Vetsch/Stoney, Wagon Wheel) - flower guide sign at Kistler not yet posted; no date for completion or posting of signs at Stoney; Wagon Wheel signage is in progress
- D. Vetsch/Stoney boundary update - no description on easements yet
- E. Tree Care and Preservation Ordinance - discussed changes and updates for next draft-sent out by Jason - discussed changes and updates.
- F. Dog Park update - initial clearing is done and plans are progressing.
- G. Food forest - no updates
- H. Forest Habitat Review (a Park Plan objective) with Val Green - date changed to Oct 4.

II. New Business

- A. Letter of support for Blufflands Coalition Funding Request - interest in supporting this request and learning how La Crescent may benefit.
- B. Trail Maintenance
 - 1. Continued discussion. At October 4 meeting trails considered on site.
 - 2. Weed whipping and trail width - discussed what is appropriate in terms of timing, width and height.
 - 3. CPL grant - Jason is meeting with Val to discuss applying for this grant.

4. Bikes on Stoney - waiting on placement of signage.
5. Maintenance criteria for volunteers discussion - discussed a potential method for volunteer check-in at the city for identification in 2024. For example: volunteer waiver on file, project approval, city check-in for volunteer.

C. Additional project identification - volunteer engagement and progress:

Weeding during the establishment phase - Veterans park;

Vetsch park prairie planting (ragweed, Canada thistle, sumac);

MnDOT Landscape Partnership prairie/landscaped areas Hwy 14/61

D. Buckthorn Removal - HELP Grant Funds - county received grant with funds with cost share for buckthorn removal 75% of cost, up to \$600. Plan for November and/or December work on Stoney.

II. Next Meeting: Tentatively Oct 4 - all day in field.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Knowles