

**Meeting Minutes of the
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD**

**Glenwood Resource Center
Visitor Center Conference Room
Glenwood, Iowa**

**April 28, 2011
1:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Deb Lewis, Chair
Armando Rosales
Inger Lamb
Patricia Boddy, DNR Deputy Director
Stephen Dinsmore
Lynn Alex

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Carl Kurtz

OTHERS PRESENT

Doug Jones – State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Dan Higginbottom – State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Krystle Campa, Attorney for Southwest Telephone Exchange
Bryce Poland, HunTel Engineering

STAFF PRESENT

Daryl Howell
John Pearson
Aaron Brees

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Deb Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on April 28, 2011 at the Glenwood Resource Center, Visitor Center Conference Room in Glenwood, IA.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Daryl Howell noted that the agenda was numbered incorrectly (no items 4 or 5)
Motion - Inger Lamb motioned to approve the agenda.
Seconded - Stephen Dinsmore
Decision - Motion carried unanimously as amended.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion - Inger Lamb motioned to approve the previous January 28, 2011 meeting minutes with the following corrections: meeting was a teleconference at January 28, 2011 at 10 a.m., Page 4: spelling correction to Strasser Woods.
Seconded - Lynn Alex
Decision - Motion carried unanimously as amended.

3. GLENWOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVE

Southwest Telephone Exchange has requested permission to place a fiber optic cable along both sides of the existing Lake Campbell Park road and across several hundred feet of the preserve west of the road. Project application materials are attached for review by board members. Representatives of the company will explain the project and answer questions.

This item was discussed during tour of the site for the proposed line that preceded this meeting. Pearson provided summary of the tour. Primary discussion points included: limited concern for the N/S (Campbell Park Rd) portion of the line. E/W portion (N of Highway 34) – recommended from the site visit that DOT be more engaged in the process and that a project location potentially S of that originally proposed (moved to DOT property). SHPO office reps noted they would be willing to initiate discussions with DOT. Rosales expressed interest in moving the location to the DOT ROW property. SHPO noted this alternative route to the South would reduce the length of the project that actually crosses the preserve. Discussion noted the amount of previous disturbance for most of the proposed project site; but the potential for human remains on the hilltop section of the E/W leg. SHPO will prepare a map demonstrating to the DOT the section of the proposed project that remains a concern. Lynn Alex asked that the results of the interaction with the DOT be shared with the State Preserves Advisory Board. Project engineering contacts included Rich Poland of Huntel Engineering (rpoland@htleng.com) and Krystle Campa of Davis Brown Law Firm (krystlecampa@davisbrownlaw.com).

Motion(1) – Patricia Boddy motioned to remove the item from the table for further discussion and decision.

Seconded – Lynn Alex

Decision – Motion carried unanimously to open the item for discussion.

Motion(2) – Lynn Alex motioned to approve location of the cable along Campbell Park Road to the point at which it intersects DOT right of way, as described in the field visit.

Seconded – Inger Lamb

Decision – Motion carried unanimously

John Pearson wanted the minutes to note that in general the state does not allow development on the preserves, but that this was an exception made due to the thorough vetting of the project and the clarification and assurances no negative impacts would result.

Deb Lewis noted the fiber optic cable was planned prior to this area becoming a state preserve, which can allow a bit more leeway than in most preserves.

Doug Jones of SHPO confirmed a letter would be prepared for Krystle Campa and the DOT.

Inger Lamb thanked the SHPO and project representatives for their cooperation and participation.

4. PRESERVE UPDATES

Ames High Prairie Preserve 3-year workplan,

Discussion

John Pearson reviewed the highlights of the plan – need to control brush, invasives, incorporation of neighboring native species – he described it as an intuitive system of prairie preservation, meeting expectations for how a preserve should be managed.

Deb Lewis also noted there is a lack of awareness or understanding of the prairie and this plan will offer an opportunity to address some of that lack of understanding and mentioned the value in getting media attention. Also noted this is likely the only urban prairie state preserve in Iowa.

Burn Unit Modification at Sylvan Runkel Preserve.

Discussion

John Pearson: continuing to work on the issue of the burning of the prairie within the preserve and potential impacts on the Nevada buck moth. Been looking at options to address this. In discussions with the preserve manager to potentially split the area into two units – due to the asymmetrical buck moth distribution, that might not satisfy the problem of the rare species. Currently working on alternative solutions.

Mixture of private and public land is around the perimeter of the preserve. Trying to manage based on natural fire breaks, not just fence line. Bulk of the prairie of concern is on state land so focusing mostly on state land. Trying to work through a complex set of factors.

Armando Rosales expressed concern that through his term as commissioner he has thought we have been able to do very little to protect the trees. John Pearson noted we do have other forest preserves – and spoke to the point that forests tend to encroach on prairies and not the other way around.

Informational Only

5. PROPOSAL SELECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Copies of the proposals and the scoring information were distributed for review. Board members will discuss the various proposals and complete the final scoring at the meeting.

Daryl Howell estimated \$15K (if anything) for the budget. Recommended we rank the proposals and will fund based on rank order according to funding availability.

John Pearson outlined the procedure for review and ranking.

Discussion

Inger Lamb asked about our ability to cover ISU overhead. Daryl Howell noted no set rule on that, but low overhead encouraged. Deb Lewis asked about availability of GIS maps in our preserves. John Pearson noted GIS mapping of plant communities in the preserve – some have been done, many not. Lynn Alex noted she was interested in staff input related to project feasibility and methodology in some instances. John Pearson said we would like to have an inventory of all the plants in our preserves. The number of visits to a site is important to look at – the minimum is two; diminishing returns after ten visits. Noted the difference between sampling and something closer to census/complete inventory. Deb Lewis asked Stephen Dinsmore commented about avian surveys. Stephen Dinsmore questioned the protocols of the submitted proposals. Lynn Alex raised questions of the archaeological surveys proposed – thought the pedestrian survey appeared to be a limiting methodology. Inger Lamb noted a couple of proposals volunteer time. Lynn Alex noted the Watson management activities project must also consider the archaeological components of the sites proposed for management. Pat Boddy asked about priority of management proposals. John Pearson noted Watson identified important sites in the proposals. There was then a brief discussion of differences between the butterfly survey proposals.

PROPOSAL	Lewis	Dinsmore	Lamb	Boddy	Alex	Rosales	Average	Cost	Cumulative
Olsen - Survey of the butterflies and skippers of Marietta Sand Prairie	1	1	1	1	2	1	1.166667	1,568	1,568
Watson - Management activities at selected hill prairies and bedrock glade remnants	1	2	1	1	1	1	1.166667	3,964	5,532
Selby - Comprehensive inventory and and census of butterflies of Sylvan Runkle	1	1	3	1	1	1	1.333333	4,900	10,432
Watson - Control of selected exotic species from natural wetland basins within Pilot Knob State Preserve	1	2	1	1	1	2	1.333333	1,665	12,097
Norris - Ten-year analysis of change in herbaceous vegetation		1	2	1	2	1	1.4	4,210	16,307
Rosburg - Floristic and vegetation inventories of Vincent Bluff and Pellet Woods.	1	1	2	1	3		1.6	4,700	21,007
Freese - Floristic survey of Cedar Hills Sand Prairie	2	1	1	2	2	3	1.833333	997	22,004
Biederman - Phenology of western prairie fringed orchid		3	3	3	2	2	2.6	12,957	34,961
Applied Ecological Services - Floristic inventory and plant community mapping	3	3	3	3	2	2	2.666667	20,795	55,756
Tetra Tech - Archaeological Survey of Anderson Prairie	3	2	3	3	3	2	2.666667	10,103	65,859
Tetra Tech - Archaeological Survey of Eureka Woods	3	2	3	3	3	2	2.666667	8,905	74,764
Tetra Tech - Avain Survey of Catfish Creek	2	3	3	3	3	2	2.666667	7,144	81,908
Tetra Tech - Avain Survey of Turin Loess Hills	3	3	3	3	3	2	2.833333	6,280	88,188
TOTAL								88,188	

Motion – Armando Rosales motioned to approve the results/rankings outline in the above table.

Seconded – Stephen Dinsmore

Decision - Motion carried

6. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Motion – Patricia Boddy motioned to nominate Deborah Lewis for State Preserves Board Chairperson.

Seconded – Stephen Dinsmore

Decision - Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lewis asked for any recommendations for ideas on how the board can best serve the preserves of Iowa.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Alex asked about the protocol for the review of the proposals. She was interested in earlier delivery of the proposals and what was appropriate/legal in terms of pre-board meeting discussion. Open meetings law guidelines were clarified.
- Lamb was interested in potentially discussing the percentage of funding available for management and associated process for designating areas for management. Expressed interest in outlining areas of management focus in future RFPs.

Armando Rosales commented about his rewarding experiences over the past six years as well as the academic background of his colleagues. His background was personnel management and he was grateful for the experiences. He also commended staff for their service.

8. NEXT MEETINGS

➤ Summer

July 22, 2011 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting with tour of Ames area
Prairie & Forest Nursery

➤ Fall

October 28, 2011 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting w/tour following
at Strasser Woods

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Armando Rosales to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Inger Lamb. Approved by Unanimous Vote. With no further business to come before the State Preserves Board, Chairperson Deb Lewis adjourned the meeting on April 28, 2011 at 3:10p.m.