

## Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed Plan Committee

November 12, 2014

Present: Lynne Diebel, Jim Danky, Jim Post, Marsha Vomastic, Christine Felton, Sandra Black

### Guest

Thank you to Nik Simonson, Community Engagement Specialist for Office of Lakes and Watersheds, Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept, for presenting information on engaging with other watershed groups and enlisting help with projects. Take a Stake in Our Waters is at [www.takeastake.org](http://www.takeastake.org) If we have project ideas, contact Nik for support. We can use the Google group list serve to promote events.

### New Member

Welcome to Ron Sam, a landowner in the Badfish Creek watershed.

### Conservation Projects

Ron Sam suggested Eagle Scout nesting box projects with the McFarland troop: send request to Glacier's Edge Council via Ron Sam. Nik mentioned "Eagle-ready" projects: online handbook and advertising projects at district meetings.

We will tell Andy that we're interested in a winter logging project with a bonfire.

### Canoe Landing

Discussion: Who will accept the liability if it is ADA accessible? If no ADA landing, all we'll need is a group of Boy Scouts and somebody with a tractor. Marsha has a skid-loader with wheels (Bobcat) that she might donate. Lynne will talk with Andy about the project process and report back in January.

Andy Paulios update:

#### Canoe Landing:

- I met with DNR engineer (Brandon) to "ground-truth" our canoe landing ideas. He and I mapped a tentative trail location running from the SE corner of the Old Stage parking lot and ending at the river after a shallow decline to a low-spot in the bank. Brandon suggested that the trail development would be relatively easy with some tree/shrub clearing and maybe a little widening in order to get canoes in and out. There is one spot early on in the trail that may need some gravel added to ensure that it doesn't wash out.
- I've begun discussions with Wendy Peich (DNR water regs person) about any potential wetland impacts to the canoe landing and trail. When I hear back from Wendy about scheduling a field tour, I'll give the Badfish Creek folks an opportunity to attend.

- The deadline for the Friends Group Grants is this week (NOV. 15<sup>th</sup>) which I'm assuming means that we're thinking about next year. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stewardship/grants/ApplyFriends.html> There are some additional sources of funding that may come into play – or it's possible that this is a very low-cost project and wouldn't require a lot of cash. In-kind labor is eligible for match.
- I'd suggest that we put together a formal plan AFTER meeting with Wendy in order to clarify the need for permits, etc. Then we could apply for funding or seek funding in 2015.

#### Master Planning:

- The Badfish Creek master plan is creeping forward. The latest plan that I heard was that we are going to take some draft alternatives (ecological and recreational) to the DNR board next Spring. There would also be a series of public meetings and opportunities for feedback. I'll keep the group in the loop.

#### Habitat Work:

- DNR staff are working to create a new burn unit for the potential State Natural Area and wetlands on the western side of the creek. The southern burn break has been created but we still need to work on gaining access to the western side of that unit by talking to the neighbors.
- DNR staff are planning to do at least one prescribed burn on Badfish in 2015. The top priority is the northern unit/grasslands along Old Stone road. We are also planning some work parties to help clear trees/shrubs from that unit before/after the burn. Maybe the group would be interested in some winter logging and bonfire??

#### Outreach:

- DNR staff are working to create relationships with local schools to do some habitat work on the property (invasives, prairie restoration) – ideas welcome.
- I've been reaching out to neighboring landowners to discuss habitat management and access for burns, etc. We may want to combine efforts here/hold an event or discuss possibilities for getting them enrolled in your group! The master plan is an obvious conversation starter but I'd be interested in having them get involved in management for the long-term.