

Badger Oversight Management Commission
Meeting Recap
March 15, 2012

The Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC) convened at the Sauk County West Square Building, Room 213, for its regular meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2012.

Chair Wenzel called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Staff affirmed compliance with Open Meetings Laws.

Attendance:

Commission Member	Commission Representative	Present
HoChunk Nation	John Holst	Yes
Wisconsin DNR	Steve Schmelzer Craig Karr Jim Carter (for Schmelzer/Karr)	No No Yes
Sauk County	Bill Wenzel	Yes
Town of Merrimac	Richard Grant Judy Ashford	No Yes
Town of Sumpter	Peter Mullen	Yes
Stakeholder Interest	Stakeholder Rep	
Badger History Group	Michael Goc	Yes
Citizens for Safe Water around Badger	Laura Olah	Yes
UW-Baraboo	Ann Vogl	No
Baraboo School District	David Haseley	No
Bluffview Sanitary District	Jeff Little Lisa Rutkowski	Yes No
City of Baraboo	Eugene Robkin	No
Sauk Prairie Cons. Alliance	Dave Tremble	Yes
Sauk Prairie School District	Teresa Kreutzmann	No
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation	Don Hammes	Yes
The Village of Sauk City	Bill Stehling	Yes

Commission Liaison	Liaison Représentative	
USDA-DFRC	Rick Walgenbach	Yes
U.S. Army	Joan Kenney	Yes

Others present: Brian Simmert, Mark Aquino, Diane Brusoe, Don Kirner, Neal Martin, Alison Duff, Cherrie Nolden, David Serafy-Cox, Terre Carlson, Donna Stehling, Donna Schultz.

Motion by Judy Ashford, seconded by Mullen, to adopt the agenda for the March 15, 2012 meeting.
Motion Carried.

Motion by Ashford, seconded by Mullen, to adopt an amended version of the draft minutes from the January 19, 2012 meeting. **Motion Carried.** The amendments included changing the spelling of Hammass to Hammes and Carr to Karr.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Reports:

1. *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:* Jim Carter, Assistant Superintendent at Devil's Lake noted that the DNR has spent time preparing for the master planning process. There will be an article in the park's newspaper that will detail the master planning process. A meeting was held at the SPCA to discuss upcoming plans. The park is assessing hunting requirements for 2012 and it was noted that hunting is open to the public.

2. *Town of Merrimac:* Judy Ashford – no report

3. *Town of Sumpter:* Peter Mullen – no report

4. *Bluffview Sanitary District:* Jeff Little reported that the District received a deed for the well house and sanitary facility. Three projects including that master meter project, upgrades to the Badger and Bluffview wellhouse, and replacement of the sanitary lift station of the west side of Highway 12 will commence in June with anticipated completion by the end of the year. A clean water grant will partially fund the projects.

5. *Sauk County:* Bill Wenzel reported on a discussion with the County Board chair and the governor's office regarding the rails to trails and master planning process.

6. *Ho-Chunk:* No report

Committee Reports:

1. *Executive and Finance:* Wenzel noted that the Ho-Chunk allocated an additional \$10,000 to Sauk County to be utilized by the BOMC for support Conservation, Planning, and Zoning staff support. It is anticipated that the budgeted amount will be around \$4000.00 per year.

2. *Planning and Land Use*: Ashford noted that the master planning process for the SPRA was introduced and discussed. Also discussed the drafting of a letter to be sent to the Wisconsin DNR concerning contaminated groundwater plumes.

3. *Education and Outreach*: Tremble noted how necessary it will be to reacquaint people to the reuse planning process and suggested that the BOMC work on bringing the work at Badger out to the public and to identify ways to make the research occurring at Badger accessible to the public. Michael Goc suggested the use of press releases. Donna Stehling would like to work with school districts to prepare a Badger field day. SPCA has brush cutting days scheduled which will occur monthly with the DNR to address invasive species removal.

4. *Ad Hoc Committees*: No report.

Liaison Reports:

1. *US Army*: Joan Kenney reported that the Army will be putting out an environmental assessment regarding water quality (handout provided). There is also new information on DNT isomers (RAB handout provided). The DNT isomers 2,4 and 2,6 appear to be the active compound of concern. Laura Olah expressed concern regarding mutagenic impacts and exposure causing animal deaths. Olah asked if there is a different level of PCBs in soil on land that is grazed versus not grazed. 22ppm is the maximum allowed for grazed land. Olah asked about the level of PCB cleanup on lands proposed to be acquired by the Ho-Chunk. The standard of 1 ppm was noted. Mark Aquino stated that the DNR is still looking into the issue of PCB contamination on DNR designated land. The DNR is looking into using grazing as a management tool on lands it will acquire. Kenney indicated the Army is waiting on the DNR to give feedback as to future uses. Olah expressed concern that lower levels of cleanup are affecting the BIA's decision to sponsor the lands for Ho-Chunk. GSA has made a formal offer to the National Park Service on behalf of the DNR to acquire the land originally approved by the BIA for the Ho-Chunk.

2. *USDA*: Walgenbach reported that two hunts were conducted for coyotes on DFRC land with little success. The hunt was allowed because 20 heifers had aborted from drinking standing water and/or from grazing pastures that have been contaminated with *Neospora caninum*, a parasitic organism that was introduced to the area via canine (coyote) feces.

New Business:

1. *USDFRC appearance, Dr. Larry Chandler*. Neil Martin attended in lieu of Chandler. Martin shared with the group activities being conducted by DFRC at Badger and reiterated that the reuse plan does recognize dairy research as a land use. Martin reviewed a presentation developed by the American Farmland Trust entitled, "Who Cares for the Land." Dairy Forage conducts research on the efficiency of food production with a focus on water quality. Other research includes the environmental impacts by animal feed production and impact of waste products. Removal of funding for an environmental assessment was discussed and it was noted that there was no public comment period. If funding is reinstated, there would be a public comment period. Olah questioned why the FONSI was issued and that there was no opportunity for public comment, even after funding was removed. Martin indicated that invitations for public comment should have come from the contractor for DF. BOMC members did

not recall receiving an invitation to take part in the process. Hammes indicated that an EIS should be done as it is more comprehensive than an EA. Martin noted that part of the project includes the treatment of manure. Duff noted that it is more important to focus on practices, not scale. How manure is managed is fundamentally more important than how much is produced. Olah noted that CSWAB hired a hydrogeologist to review the EA. A letter issued by the hydrogeologist suggested that the process should be done by the DNR and noted other issues and inconsistencies.

2. *DNR Master Planning Process, Mark Aquino.* Aquino answered questions regarding the disposition of Parcel Q3 and noted a communication from the Ho-Chunk Nation indicating a desire to reverse the BIA decision. A decision from the BIA is anticipated in April. If the Nation does not acquire the land, the DNR intends to, however the DNR is respectful of the Nation's process with BIA. DNR intends to send a letter to GSA expressing interest if the Nation's acquisition request is not viable.

Regarding the EA: A briefing with DNR staff, the DNR will be reviewing the EA and will submit comments.

Master Planning. Aquino thanked BOMC for their work and persistence. It was noted that the DNR would not be at this point if the commitment was not there through the years. Expressed that DNR needs feedback from BOMC and community as part of the planning process and once complete they will need partners to continue management of the land. The level of interest will be very unique with this project and there is support from Secretary Stepp. Aquino introduced Diane Brusoe, planner with the DNR. Brusoe was asked to lead this project because of her skill and ability to move projects along. Brusoe introduced the master plan project timeline, its three phases, and their purpose and anticipated outcome. Brusoe noted that she would be able to attend BOMC meetings to update the group and to give the BOMC an opportunity to give feedback.

Phase I Discussed draft regional and property analysis document. Among other things, this document will express what this property is most suited for.

Phase 2. Three open houses- opportunity to get public feedback. There will be a website for the process and an opportunity to sign up for e-mail updates when something new is posted to the site.

Phase 3. Draft master plan presented to Natural Resources Board.

Aquino noted that when the DNR meets with the BOMC that it will be an additional opportunity to gather feedback from the public in attendance and the BOMC. Tremble noted that it will be critical not only for the community to provide feedback but to also provide content. Aquino indicated that they are open to having meetings with groups to gather more input. Hammes asked how much of an influence will Devil's Lake SP have on the plan? Aquino noted that the SPRA will not be a state park and explained that a recreation area can have a broader range of activities. Concept is that the state park and the recreation area can complement each other. He spoke about conceptual land use plans written back in 2002 as a guiding document. Devil's Lake has a separate master plan that is scheduled for an update in 2013. Discussion occurred regarding having an education component in the master plan. Aquino spoke about an interpretive center. Olah asked if it has to be called a recreation area. Possibility to give it

another name. The statutory classification of recreation area will remain, but there might be opportunities for different naming.

3. *Review of revised plan regarding the use of goats for vegetation removal at Badger, Cherrie Nolden.* Nolden informed the group that she did not receive a SARE grant, but funding through Animal Welfare was approved and was used for fencing costs. Nolden will be applying for another SARE grant. A visual presentation was given showing the impact goats were having on vegetation. A revised grazing plan will move the project from DNR land to USDA land. Will be applying for another SARE grant.

4. *Review and possible approval of a letter to the Wisconsin DNR concerning contaminated groundwater plumes.* The BOMC discussed final language to be included in the letter. Motion by Mullen, seconded by Ashford to approve a final letter.

5. *Next Meeting Date.* May 17, 2012.

6. *Public Comment.* There was no public comment.

Motion by Mullen, seconded by Ashford, to adjourn at 10:08 **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ashford

Recap by Simmert