

Badger Oversight Management Commission
Meeting Recap
May 19, 2011

The Badger Interim Oversight Management Commission (IOMC) convened at the Sauk County West Square Building, Room B30, for its regular meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2011.

Chair Wenzel called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Staff affirmed compliance with Open Meetings Laws.

Attendance:

Commission Member	Commission Representative	Present
HoChunk Nation	John Holst Richard _____	Yes Yes
Wisconsin DNR	Steve Schmelzer Craig Karr	Yes Yes
Sauk County	Bill Wenzel	Yes
Town of Merrimac	Richard Grant	Yes
Town of Sumpter		No
Stakeholder Interest	Stakeholder Rep	
Badger History Group	Michael Goc	No
Citizens for Safe Water @ Badger	Laura Olah	Yes
UW-Baraboo	Ann Vogel	Yes
Baraboo School District	David Haseley	No
Bluffview Sanitary District	Jeff Little	Yes
City of Baraboo	Eugene Robkin	Yes
Sauk Prairie Cons. Alliance	Dave Tremble / Allison Duff	Yes
Sauk Prairie School District	Teresa Kreutzmann	No
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation	Don Hammes	Yes
The Village of Sauk City	Bill Stehling	No
Commission Liaison	Liaison Représentative	
USDA-DFRC	Rick Walgenbach	Yes
U.S. Army	Joan Kenney	No

Others present: Steve Sorenson, Jeb Barzen, Sherry Nolden, David Serafy-Cox, Dave Tremble, Tim Lins, Allison Duff and others.

Motion by Richard Grant, seconded by Steve Schmelzer, to adopt the agenda for the May 19, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Richard Grant, seconded by John Holst to adopt the minutes from the March 17, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Reports:

1. *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:* Steve Schmelzer spoke about the planting plans and agreement. No plans to expand. Wenzel inquired about invasives. Discussed the goat study for grazing. Schmelzer mentioned much of the old fencing has been removed. No new fencing is planned. No water for grazing cattle. Big factor for grazing livestock. Joan Kenny mentioned the building move has been pushed back. Building planned for take down in spring 2012.
2. *Town of Merrimac:* No Report
3. *Town of Sumpter:* The town name has a connection to the civil war. This is the 150 anniversary of the civil war. Wenzel stated not much done on cemetery issue.
4. *Bluffview Sanitary:* Jeff Little discussed a loan for safe drinking water and the chlorination unit. He will be applying for a CDBG grant to replace the lift station on the west side of Highway 12. Discussed leachate treatment for the new landfill. Discussed how the leachate is treated before entering the ground. Water testing is done after leaving the plant for normal things. DNR testing is done through MSA of Baraboo. Little will provide information on water testing. Discussed concerns after the water leaves the site and that not all chemicals are being treated. Water goes to Final Creek and to the Wisconsin River. Richard Grant had a question regarding the cemetery application & ownership. Someone mentioned the application is still active. The Army has not made the cemetery a priority and Kenney understands the work that needs to be done.
5. *Sauk County:* No Report.
6. *Ho-Chunk:* John Holst introduced Mr. Richard ----- . He is filling in for Samantha Greendeer who is now working out of state. Discussed 2 items on terms of transfer. The Ho-Chunk Nation will take down additional structures. They would like to have landfill capacity

available for the disposal of old buildings. Kenny discussed the timing for capping of the landfill.

Don Hammes spoke about a meeting in Washington regarding the history of Badger environmental access not being conducted has been done and documented. Wenzel asked if there is anything this body can do to assist Richard. The commission also wanted to acknowledge to contributions of Samantha. Holst stated she still will be involved. Wenzel acknowledged her contributions.

Committee Reports:

1. *Executive and Finance:* Wenzel stated the Committee has not met and provided a synopsis. Funds granted to assist with meeting administration were absorbed into the Planning and Zoning budget. Wenzel expressed concern the he was not informed the money was taken away. The group was informed that Gina Templin will no longer be available to take meeting minutes. The commission is in need of a recording secretary. Wenzel asked for suggestions. It was suggested that Wenzel work with county staff to find a solution. The Office of Planning and Zoning is in the process of combining with the Land Conservation Department. The new Director starts Monday, May 23, 2011. Wenzel will seek direction and input from new director. Steve Schmelzer stated that Mark Steward and Templin worked well with the commission and there help was appreciated. Wenzel acknowledged Dave Tremble's help. Grant had a question on the dollar amounts that ranged from \$4,400-4,700 but the exact amount was unknown. Grant mentioned that the money was part of Planning and Zoning budget and was rolled over year to year. They were not earmarked funds. Authority to take earmark of funds. No response or answer. Grant made a request for the funds to be restored. Wenzel will redouble his efforts to claim the money. Wenzel will address the Planning and Zoning Committee. Sorenson will try to get on the Tuesday agenda for the Planning and Zoning/Land Conservation Committee meeting for June 9, 2011.

2. *Planning and Land Use:* Karr explained the bio inventory that will be conducted this summer. The inventory will be detailed and include a bird survey, animal survey, plant inventory, sampling for fish and others. Full spectrum of biodiversity including forestry. Karr noted there was not much quality timber. Will explore harvesting trees for other uses including fuel. Wenzel asked a question on payment? No local market for timber. Forester will help. Furniture maker may be interested in the cherry wood. Robkin noted this would be a one time tree sale. Someone from Poynette was interested in having dog activities, trials, training, mushing activities on the grounds. A request for said dog activities was made to conservation congress and was accepted. Karr passed out verbiage. It was noted that the park will look to the master plan for land use guidance and the decisions of the conservation congress are not an obligation. There is also a procedure for using applications at Badger. Wenzel will send a letter to the conservation congress explaining the reuse process. The letter will go to the DNR, Conservation Congress and dog owners.

3. *Education and Outreach:* Allison Duff found another intern for the BOMC. Wenzel will meet with the new intern to coordinate activities.

4. *AdHoc:* Dave Tremble discussed responses from members for ideas on an event for the October 8th anniversary. The response was poor. Owners have other things to do, everyone is busy. Alliance discussed including a work day. The Alliance will go ahead with the event and restoration and if others are not interested, then the Alliance will coordinate. Devils Lake State Park is having a 100 year anniversary event. Plans at park include a main event on June 25 at 9:30 am. Those in attendance include the Governor and Secretary of the DNR and National Park Service, Tammy Baldwin, County Supervisors and others. Will have historical programs and other events. More info can be found on the DNR web site. Schmelzer will send out information to those present. Tremble sought input on the 10 year anniversary event. Process should be open to all but the Alliance will shoulder the event regardless. Remind everyone that the report is still alive. Tremble continued to look for direction. Does the Commission want to sponsor anything on October 8th? Something to celebrate, be recognized? Bus tours of the plant may be possible. May also provide story boards of history. Robkin thought DNR should be present. DNR could provide one staff person.

Liaison Reports:

1. *US Army:* Joan Kenny spoke of a May outing and explained her observations. She spoke of the fall deer hunt. Unsure of number of harvest permits available. The concerns of discharge at the Bluffview sanitary treatment plant are not associated with the leachate. No problem with leachates being detected in the discharge. No chemical discharge except for nitrates. The nitrates are from the toilets, human waste. Concern over the discharge to the ground with nitrates from human waste. Joan spoke of the landfill expansion. Looking to cap cells. The press houses are scheduled for removal. Study delivered to DNR. Available at the local libraries. Water systems are stable or receding. Possible reduction in future ground water monitoring. The army will construct water system in about 4 years. Joan reported that the army would (only) be paying for the costs in install the water system and the first year or two of operation. Further discussion needed on pumping and report on the DNR model. Must discuss with the DNR. The wells are scheduled to be turned off in 2018. Difficult to see the impacts and improvement in water quality. Signs that the ground water cleaning up on its own. The army is capturing few contaminants by pumping. How long should pumping continue and at what cost? What makes sense? Natural attenuation. Modeling suggests future plans. Well contaminants are going down over last 20 years. The question was asked if there was any natural breakdown? Kenny indicated yes, but can't speak to any location. There has been an introduction of microbes that eat contaminant under the right conditions. Natural dilution is also a factor. Other activities affect degradation. How should the money be spent? Continue to operate the pump and treat. Put water system in to have safe water. Eventually the ground water will clean up. Large amount of dollars to clean up a small area. Is it worth the cost? Army must justify costs like all government agencies. Cannot exceed the DNR standards. Source areas have been

capped. Hammas was wondering on 3 plumes. Kenny indicated that all have chemicals in them. Destination is the Wisconsin River. However, cannot find contaminants in the river water. Olah mentioned that the press houses will come down, will the pump station too? Kenny said only the press houses. Olah - who owns sanitary system? The army is the owner and the plant is operated by Bluffview. Bluffview is responsible for reporting and monitoring. Question on the history of the leachate? History of leachate is out in the state records.

2. *USDA:* Rick Walgenbach provided an explanation on the difference between environmental assessment and analysis. The USDA is having an assessment on the construction of a new facility. Draft form only. Draft will be released when scope of building project is complete. Concern that Senator Kohl is not seeking re-election. He has been a major supporter. Still planning. Assessment will be available to public. He will inform group when available. The assessment is in preparation but not complete. No draft will be released until scope of project is determined.

New Business:

1. *Alternative Feasibility Study for Groundwater.* Wenzel asked the question as to whether contaminants degrade in ground water over-time? Olah reviewed studies of 6 forms of DNT, some degrade some do not degrade, depends upon the form. EPA definition of attenuation is a process that under favorable conditions is action without human intervention. Dilution, dispersion, volatilization, is where people are not involved. Natural process. Question arose, has contaminants reached the river? Assume it has moved to river. No monitoring of the river. Reports assume the contaminants have reached the water. Kenny will send out maps showing the plume has reached the river. Olah is about surface and groundwater. Many outcomes. Is contamination from World War II or from the northeast corner? Monitoring over time will give measurable outcome. Risks are a concern. Municipal water system relies on natural attenuation. Continue to clean up ground water, worth costs. DNT contaminants are the lowest groundwater standard. Olah stated a bucket of hazardous waste is a problem in the ground water. Discussed economics. Concern is how presented and what is offered. Municipal water system will provide comfort in having safe water. Encourage decision makers to look at other remedies. Not realistic to expect that choice is an ultimatum. The Village of Prairie du Sac is and will be down gradient of the plume. The Prairie du Sac well 4 is west of the village because of Badger. As the reuse moves ahead there will be more demand on the land. Laura stated the contaminants on the west side of Badger are deep but get shallow as the plume reaches the river. Concern of off gassing and the long term affects of the plume on health. Concern over future development on the plume. Olah passed out several hand outs. Opportunity to comment on process and public comment is a factor. Read the draft handout. Handout on 3 alternatives, handout of contaminant levels map and treatment and feasibility study. The Bison operation not affected. Many DNR areas not affected. Clean water is available on site. Robkin had a question on the problem with organics after the system is in place. Kenny spoke about new wells north of the ammo plant. Active carbon may be necessary. Kenny indicated that if the army caused the

problem then they will be responsible. A question arose, have bacteria been found in the area or have them been import. Bacteria have been studied. Plume map one round of tests. Plume maps are comprehensive. More than one well. Kenny has not found contamination of wells in clear map area. Olah noted that the plumes are smooth on map when they are not smooth, can form fingers. Laura had a question on the cost of a municipal well. Proposal opened for discussion. A place to start. Bulk rate for farmers. Wenzel said the water district self sustaining by water rates. Grant pointed out the alternative water study and that we exceeded our comment period and need to move on and close discussion.

2. *Discussion and possible approval of an application by the UW Madison Dept. of Agricultural Ecology to the USDA Sustainable Agricultural Research Program.* Dave Tremble spoke and will combine items 2 & 3. The Chair agreed. Alliance conducted restoration activities for years. Possible research to assist in adding value to provide information for ecological restoration activities. Jeb Barzen invited to provide information and support in effort for a USDA grant. Provide context on the reuse plan. Mario & Sherry Nolden presented a proposal for a conservation goat grazing project. Barzen involved with spark, Duff and others involved partners in research consistent with reuse plan. Many research projects – try to integrate project partners. Share information of like concern. Opportunity to look at projects and partners. Need money to get started and starting small of interest to all. Vision for outside of badger not just inside badger. Nolden indicated the grant program consists of 2 projects. Goat project & restoration. Opportunities for habitat restoration with goats. UW students idea to apply for grant in goat grazing, pieces come together. Site suitable for goats. Research should be a part of Badger. The group gives tentative approval to the proposal. The \$200,000 grant due next week. Project on the ground soon part of research. Goat project will utilize the Nolden herd of goats. Restoration an interest. Would like to expand to Badger. Rotational grazing. Clean up brush. Restore areas to grassland or savanna. Water and electric provided. Ms. Nolden lives 5 miles from Badger. The goats will eat invasive brush and open the prairie up. Move goats through a pasture rotation. Grant to run goats and conduct research. Research to measure many parameters and implement the study. Start with 30 goats. Plans will set goals. Open the hill sides for conservation and production. Would be substantial amount of land great potential for agriculture. Should this group take a vote? Waldenbach supports the idea. Would like to work with dairy forage. Consensus of members. Many want to use Badger. Land Use committee to define the project. Land use committee to make recommendation to the owners. Process in place for land uses. Consider land use process. Time crunch. Can present to land use committee and bring back. Would commission be sympathetic in applying for the grant? A means to get started to make the grant application. Must stick with protocol. Recommend they go the Land Use Committee first. Olah supports the process. The commission supports the idea for the start of their grant. Schmelzer asked if they had any parcels in mind. The prairie needs brush control. Focus on any area that needs the grazing method. Yellowstone lake study has potential and the group wants to hear more details. Try to be specific on grazing location for future meeting. The commission in support of the grazing proposal idea. More information

needed and must go through the land use committee. Commission has no objection for making grant with the understanding of more details needed. Commission in support of the conceptual approval of the grant proposal. No vote taken, not necessary.

3. *Discussion regarding the formation of an ad-hoc committee to develop recommendations for a new memorial at BAAP.* Karr presented a letter that there be adequate memorial of affected parties. Wants to preserve the memorial or expand to other affected groups. Will preserve the memory. Part of the master plan. Take under advisement. Wenzel will contact Don Kirner. The Commission has a process where Kirner needs to form a committee and bring to the land use committee and how it fits the protocol.

4. *Next meeting date:* **Thursday, July 21st, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.**

5. *Public comment.* Someone noted the many songbirds this year. Late nesting period for Bluebirds.

Motion by Holst, second by Schmelzer to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ashford

Recap by Sorenson