

Minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting
BOMC Planning and Land Use Committee

Present: Neal Martin, DFRC Director; Nancy Betzold, USDA DFRC Herd Manager; Geoff Brink, DFRC Research Agronomist; Rick Walgenbach; Lori Bocher; Laura Olah; Frank Olah; Michael Goc; Don Hammes; Steve Schmelzer; Randy Poelma; Craig Karr; Terre Carlson, Sauk Prairie Star.

Neal Martin presented a powerpoint slide show, covering:

- Progress on DFRC Land Use and Conservation Plans.

Summer interns will inventory plants and animals on DFRC non-crop lands (about 550 acres, plus about 250 acres of “unimproved pasture”) and Ho-Chunk Nation lands to identify potential uses for the lands.

Pat Murphy, NRCS will be helping DFRC to develop a “Conservation Plan” for the farm.
- Progress on Facilities Modernization.

Plans are still under review.

New facilities will focus on nutritional research, gas emissions research, research on grazing lactating cows, and converting manure to energy.

Facilities will incorporate BOMC’s Land Use Guidelines, including earth-tone materials, low profile, reduced lighting, and permeable roads and parking lots.

In response to committee questions, the following information was shared:

Manure will be stored above-ground, sand bedded. It is hoped to some day develop a biogas generation operation.

DFRC has approximately 550 acres of woods and shrubs and 250 acres of unimproved pasture.

It is hoped that sufficient cropland is available to provide feed for cows at expanded facilities.

Water is obtained via two wells. Approximately one million gallons of water per year will be needed for the new facility.

Wastewater goes to a manure lagoon and then a septic system.

No contamination has been found in soil or plant tissues nor in milk produced. Farm water is tested regularly although DNT is not in standard water analysis tests.

- Landowner Relations.

USDA brings to the table expertise in soil quality, has provided assistance with prairie plantings, fence building, etc.

USDA is concerned about regulating public uses – potential for crop damage, disturbance of animals and research. Public road access, and the potential for bison bringing in brucellosis.

Geoff Brink shared information on future grazing research at the new farm facilities. Wisconsin is experiencing fewer dairy farms (30,000 in 1993 vs. 16,900 in 2003) and a switch to use of rotational grazing (7.3% of farms in 1993 vs. 23.1% in 2003). Little research is being done on the impact of pasture management on the performance of grazing dairy cows.

The new facilities are planned to be constructed just to the east of the Conservation Club area of Badger. Immediately to the north, 75 acres of current cropland will be converted to use of grazing research.

Michael Goc, representing the Badger History Group urged DFRC and other landowners to “remember to remember” the history of the property in their plans. This can be done via visitor center exhibits, but also throughout the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A descendant of a family farm taken for BAAP asked for DFRC permission to erect a memorial at his family’s farmstead area. The Committee supports recognition of the farms taken for BAAP but believes there needs to be consistency. There will be some farmstead locations that will not be open to the public. The Committee asks the Badger History Group to work with him to develop guidelines and recommendations to present to BOMC.
2. The Committee was asked to think of projects or products the committee needs that could be funded by a portion of the \$10,000 allocated to BOMC from the Ho-Chunk Nation gaming revenues.
3. The Committee was asked to be thinking about revisions or additions to the BOMC “page” of Sauk County’s website.

4. The Committee revisited the issue of mapping needs to support the committee's efforts. Laura Olah will send the committee members an earlier list of potential data to be shown on maps. Committee members should edit, if needed. After edits, Craig will meet with Joan Kenney to learn of possibilities for map production.

CHECK-IN:

Craig informed Committee members of plans for a "deed-signing" ceremony. On Friday, July 9, the Governor, the DNR Secretary, the National Park Service, GSA, and invited government officials will assemble at the Reservoir area for a "deed-signing" photo op. These folks will then tour the plant. After that, all who have been involved in the Reuse Committee/BIG/BOMC process are invited to meet the above officials in 207 for cake and ice cream.

Rick Walgenbach denied a request for use of a metal detector.

NEXT MEETING:

The Committee decided to meet the Second Tuesday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 9:30 a.m. Therefore, the next meeting will be Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at Devil's Lake State Park.