

**Wisconsin Recreation Best Management Practices for Invasive Species  
Advisory Committee**  
Marathon County – UW-Extension Office, Wausau  
August 20, 2007

**EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

**Meeting Participants**

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Dave Newman	Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
Gary Werner	Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation (Dane County Chapter) Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter
Lisa Renier Thomas	The Nature Conservancy
Kris Tiles	UW-Extension
Kelly Kearns	WDNR-Endangered Resources
Amy Staffen	WDNR-Forestry
Sherry Klosiewski	WDNR-Parks & Recreation
Brigit Brown	WDNR-Parks & Recreation
Kimberly Currie	WDNR-Parks & Recreation
Hank Wozniel	WI ATV Association
Gary Severson	WI Conservation Congress
Will Christianson	WI Department of Tourism
John Jones	WI Donkey & Mule Society
Luana Schneider	WI Four Wheel Drive Association
John Schnorr	WI Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Rob McConnell	WI ORV Council
Bill Duncanson	WI Park & Recreation Association
Mindy Krolick	WI State Horse Council

**Introductions**

**Update on Brett and Todd's positions**

Kimberly Currie announced that the search to replace Brett Richardson (Wildlife Forever) as Committee Chair continues. One candidate declined. Please let Kimberly know if you have any suggestions for individuals to contact. (Brett Richardson moved to Maine.)

Todd Miller (WDNR-Forestry) also moved to Maine, and was recently replaced by Amy Staffen. Amy is working with all Forestry BMP tracks (forestry, urban forestry, recreation, and rights-of-way) in coordinating meetings, taking minutes, and offering basic services for all related committees. She is a native Madisonian, with an academic and professional background in restoration ecology. As a land manager, she has extensive experience with and an interest in invasive species.

## Approval of June 11 minutes

✓ **Decision:** Minutes approved, with corrections. See website for posting.

### Advisory Committee Size, Working Groups

Kris Tiles recommends limiting size of the Advisory Committee. Most stakeholder groups are fairly represented, or have had sufficient notification to participate. If others need to be involved, they can provide input within the smaller “Spokes” working groups. If there are others that you feel need to be represented on this Committee, please let Kris know.

Kris and Amy, with help from others, developed a complete stakeholder list, which was passed around at the meeting for updates and corrections. The full list has been divided into two subgroups: those individuals/groups that want to actively participate in the meetings, and those that simply want to be kept in the loop (*i.e.*, they will monitor proceedings).

### FILT Response to Questions Raised at last Meeting

Kelly Kearns sent email inquiry to FILT membership, and got responses only from Fred Clark and Brett Richardson. Kelly feels that Fred’s comments most likely reflect FILT as a group, but they will review these questions again at their next meeting during the first few weeks of September 2007. Following is a paraphrased summary of Fred’s comments:

1. *Does FILT have an expectation that the Recreation BMPs will develop a product in a specific format?* No. The format of the final product is flexible. The minimum would be a ‘white paper’ that lists the BMPs in a format that stakeholders could use in developing their own personalized outreach products.
2. *Will the BMPs created by this group be presented to the public for open comment?* Yes. Given the very large number of Recreational user groups, a public comment period would help to build further awareness and support. These groups will be vital in building awareness and promoting the BMPs.
3. *Should Committee groups put out news release about the recreation BMPs prior to the public input process?* Yes.
4. *Is this Advisory Committee supposed to be working on Phase I only (developing BMPs) or also Phase II (implementation)?* The Committee should be considering Phase II implementation needs as they develop BMPs. Committee members are welcome to begin looking for funding sources now for implementation. This Committee will continue with the Phase II process eventually, though not all current members are required/compelled to remain engaged beyond Phase I. The Committee may evolve with time – some members may leave after Phase I, and new members may join.
5. *Will the BMPs that the four tracks create become mandatory?* The BMP Advisory Committees have no regulatory authority. The BMPs created by these Committees will be voluntary. Fred will recommend that FILT create a “statement of scope” that would supplement the Committee charges to clarify this issue.

**Deleted:** the following

**Deleted:** :

**Deleted:** <#>Delete organizations listed on first page that didn’t have representatives at meeting¶  
<#>Correct Bill Duncanson’s affiliation to “WI Parks & Recreation Association”¶  
<#>Add “Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation” to Gary Werner’s affiliation¶

**Deleted: Format of meeting minutes¶**  
Committee reviewed the format of both types of minutes: “Executive” and “Member.” The Executive minutes present an abbreviated version of the meeting that will be posted on the website for the general public. They have few references to names or organizations, will not present draft written products or key concepts that are still under discussion, and will simply provide a basic outline of what the Committee is doing. Decisions and homework assignments will also be listed here. The Member minutes will be accessible only to members in the password-protected area of the website, and will present details of ongoing discussions, draft written products, decisions, homework assignments, and any other information vital to the Committee functioning.¶

<#>**Assignment:** Amy will include a website username and password reminder when she sends out meeting minutes by email. The word “DRAFT” will be stated clearly on minutes that are posted on the website before final approval.¶

**Deleted: Website¶**

This currently has all meeting minutes, agendas, supporting documents, and an interactive “Blog” where members can post comments on various topics. A number of members did post their ideas on suggested BMPs on the Blog, which Kris Tiles compiled into one document and shared at the meeting. There is also a member survey where they can express their interests and goals relating to their Committee involvement; please do this online survey if you haven’t yet. We will continue to use the website RSVP form for meetings as well. Let Amy Staffen know if you would like to see any alterations or enhancements. ¶

<#>**Assignment:** Amy will ask website administrator whether we can add the following features to the blog: 1) ability to track particular threads; 2) notification of new postings; 3) autoforwarding of new postings. Amy will also confirm that Committee members should use their own email addresses (versus the organization’s email address) when posting to the Blog.¶

<#>**Assignment:** Amy will create a glossary of terms and acronyms specific to this Committee that will be posted on the public area of the website.¶

√ **Decision:** This Recreation BMP Advisory Committee will work on Phase II, acknowledging that some members may drop out after Phase I is completed, and that new members may be brought in. The ultimate goal is that Phase II actions will reflect the BMPs developed by the Phase I group, thus underlining the importance of long-term involvement by this Committee.

## News Releases

√ **Assignment:** Hank Wozniel will email Amy electronic versions of the news releases that he has already sent out that announce the goals and activities of this recreation BMP Committee.

√ **Assignment:** Amy Staffen will create a news release template that provides basic information on invasive species and the BMP process, and will share with stakeholder groups for their usage. They will be encouraged to customize the template to suit their own needs. The template will be posted on the website.

## Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) Proposal

Kelly Kearns and Amy Staffen presented a proposal to set the theme for ISAM (June) 2008 as “Stop the Spread by Sole and Tread.” This would highlight issues relating to recreational users, and could provide an opportunity to launch Phase II of the recreation BMP process. The Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin would hire a coordinator to plan this month-long outreach initiative, and would seek outside funding to help pay this person’s salary and associated expenses. **The proposal is attached to these minutes.** The Advisory Committee embraces the concept of this proposal, but warned that: 1) there isn’t enough time to plan properly for events in June 2008; 2) this group may not be at a stage in the BMP Phase I process where they will be ready for targeted outreach, thus the opportunity to present the BMPs to the public would be lost. It was recommended that ISAM 2008 focus on aquatic recreation, as the infrastructure for outreach is already well-established. This could also serve as a natural segway to focusing on terrestrial recreation for ISAM 2009.

√ **Decision:** The Advisory Committee will plan to work toward a tie-in of the recreation BMPs with ISAM (June) 2009. This will allow time for proper completion of the BMPs, as well as for development of outreach materials and planned events. Committee members will begin to consider how their group may work with ISAM to share information with their stakeholders.

## Review of Charge

Kris Tiles presented a chart describing different roles that Committee members can play during meetings: creators, advancers, executors and refiners. She encourages us to consider which types of roles/personalities we bring to the table, to consider those of other Committee members, and to recognize when some roles are not filled. The most effective meetings have a balance of all roles/personality types, where individuals tactfully determine when to play their role and when to allow others to fulfill theirs.

Before launching into ‘word-smithing’ the group’s charge, Kris Tiles presented a list of concepts that may describe this Committee. (“*This is why you were all asked to come here and are all willing to participate*”). This helped guide the group to finalizing the charge.

√ **Decision:** The Committee agreed upon the following guiding concepts:

1. BMPs are voluntary.
2. Collaborative process that includes the spectrum of interested parties.
3. Outcome will be BMPs.
4. Participants agree to get the word out to their constituents and the general public.

5. Practices will address prevention, control and where possible eradication of nonnative invasives.
6. The term “Best Management Practices” refers to both land management as well as to human behavior management (nexus of social and physical).
7. Wisconsin-based, but recognizing invasives are ignorant of political boundaries (this concept not as important to product).

√ **Decision:** The Committee agreed to the final version of their charge:

**Wisconsin Recreation Best Management Practices for Invasive Species  
Advisory Committee Charge:**

“Wisconsin recreationists seek to protect Wisconsin land-based ecosystems through the development of voluntary Best Management Practices for invasive species. Through a collaborative process that includes recreationists, land managers, and resource professionals, the Advisory Committee will strive to develop and disseminate standards of practice to aid in the prevention, control and eradication of nonnative, invasive species in Wisconsin.”

**Discussion of “Spokes”**

The group remains committed to the “Spoke and Hub Committee Structure” schema created by Todd Miller in the June 2007 meeting minutes, with the following minor changes and clarifications:

- “Trapping” added to “Hunting and Fishing”
- Use global term “Animals” instead of listing species
- Add a new spoke: “Facilities and Land Management”
- This group will not be considering aquatic recreation or gardening

From this foundation, the BMPs will probably fall under two categories:

1. General vectors that fall within the domain of one or more spokes (*e.g.*, vehicle treads, footwear). These can be referenced throughout the BMP document to avoid repetition.
2. BMPs unique to each spoke group

√ **Decision:** Seven separate spokes groups will be formed that will be comprised of at least one Advisory Committee member and individuals from outside the Committee who represent stakeholders within the context of each spoke topic. These Spokes Groups will develop written drafts of BMPs, which will then be reviewed by and compiled into a final document by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will ensure that BMPs are consistent in format, reasonable, appropriate, understandable by laypeople, and scientifically accurate.

√ **Assignment:** A subgroup (Kimberly Currie, Sherry Klosiewski, Lisa Renier Thomas and Mindy Krolick) will create a BMP template based on camping as the topic. This will be reviewed by the Committee at the next meeting and used as a guide for Spokes Groups.

√ **Decision:** The Committee formulated the following descriptions of the Spokes Groups, with the understanding that these may be expanded within the small group discussions. Individuals who are willing to serve on these Spokes Groups and some of their preliminary ideas are indicated as well.

## **HIKING AND GENERAL RECREATION**

- Pedestrian only??
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Dog walking
- Bird watching (wildlife)
- Gathering
- Photography
- Running
- Strollers/joggers/wheelchairs

### Group Members (preliminary comments)

Gary Severson  
Gary Werner  
Sherry Klosiewski  
Brigit Brown (walking, rock climbing, picnicking)

## **MOTORIZED VEHICLES**

- 4WD (jeeps and trucks)
- ATVs
- UTVs
- Motorcycles
- Segway

### Group Members

Bill Duncanson  
Tim Krueger/Luana Schneider  
Lisa Renier Thomas  
Rob McConnell  
Hank Wozniel  
John Schnorr

## **HUNTING, FISHING & TRAPPING**

- Bait, food plots, wildlife plantings
- Land-to-water transition
- Harvest handling
- Reference (or include):
  - Vehicles
  - Animals (both as transport and as ‘helpers’)

### Group Members

John Jones  
Lisa Renier Thomas  
Rob McConnell  
Gary Severson  
John Schnorr

## **CAMPING**

- Designated
- Dispersed
- Tents
- Campers/Rvs
- Firewood/campfires
- Backpacking

### Group Members

Tim Krueger/Luana Schneider  
Gary Severson  
Sherry Klosiewski  
Kimberly Currie  
Gary Werner  
Bill Duncanson

## **BICYCLING**

- MTB
- Leisure riders
- Touring/road
- Cleats/shoes

### Group Members

Mindy Krolick



## **ANIMALS**

- Horseback riders
- Mules
- Dogs
  - Hunting (land & water)
  - Walking
  - Mushers/skijor
  - Field trials
- Llamas/alpacas
- Pets
- Consider: Transportation of animals for recreational purposes

### Group Members

John Jones  
John Schnorr  
Mindy Krolick  
Lisa Renier Thomas  
Gary Severson

## **WINTER SPORTS**

- Cross-country skiing
- Snowmobiles
- Ice fishing
- Snowshoes
- Mushers/skijor
- ATVs
- Hiking—pedestrian-based
- Winter camping

### Group Members

Dave Newman  
Hank Wozniel  
Gary Severson

## **FACILITIES AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

- Campgrounds
- Fire suppression
- Hunting facilities
- Mowing
- Picnic areas
- Plantings
- Prescribed fires, firebreak construction
- Soil stabilization
- Trail closures
- Trail construction
- Trail engineering
- Trail layout
- Trail maintenance
- Trail surfacing (mulch, gravel)
- Trailheads
- Vehicle access points
- Washing/cleaning stations
- Wildlife openings

### Group Members

Bill Duncanson  
Dave Newman  
Amy Staffen  
Gary Werner  
WDNR Bureau of Parks

**Next Meeting Dates**

Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

10:00-3:00, Wausau, UW-Extension Building

Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (Tentative- awaiting survey results)

10:00-3:00, Wausau, UW-Extension Building

**Agenda Items for October Meeting**

1. Approve BMP template
2. Break into Spokes Groups
3. Convene as large group to review Spokes discussions and set timeline

## Website

This currently has all meeting minutes, agendas, supporting documents, and an interactive “Blog” where members can post comments on various topics. A number of members did post their ideas on suggested BMPs on the Blog, which Kris Tiles compiled into one document and shared at the meeting .There is also a member survey where they can express their interests and goals relating to their Committee involvement; please do this online survey if you haven’t yet. We will continue to use the website RSVP form for meetings as well. Let Amy Staffen know if you would like to see any alterations or enhancements.

**Assignment:** Amy will ask website administrator whether we can add the following features to the blog: 1) ability to track particular threads; 2) notification of new postings; 3) autoforwarding of new postings. Amy will also confirm that Committee members should use their own email addresses (versus the organization’s email address) when posting to the Blog.

**Assignment:** Amy will create a glossary of terms and acronyms specific to this Committee that will be posted on the public area of the website.

**Assignment:** Kris/ Amy will work with Chris to post a survey regarding meeting dates and times.