

## AGENDA

Eau Claire County

### • Committee on Parks and Forest •

Monday, March 14, 2022

**5:00 pm**

**Room AG 203**

Dial In: +1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 145 828 6610

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Winnie Parker at [Winnie.Parker@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Winnie.Parker@co.eau-claire.wi.us) at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person and 30 minutes maximum for the public comment period.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice
2. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes - **Discussion/Action**
  - a. February 14, 2022
3. Public Comment
4. Beaver Creek Earth Week Challenge request to waive park entrance fees April 16 -24 - **Discussion/Action**
5. Lake Altoona District prairie planting at sand dredge site - **Discussion/Action**
6. Motorized off road vehicle use on county forest - **Discussion/Action**
7. Resolution 21-22.097 Motorized Trails Maintenance Grant - **Discussion/Action**
8. Resolution 21-22.098 Recreational Trails Program Grant - **Discussion/Action**
9. Director's Report
10. Future Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

*Next Meeting – April 11, 2022, at 5 pm*

11. Adjourn

Prepared by Winnie Parker, Parks & Forest

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710 (FAX) 8391669 or (TDD) 8394735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County

### • Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, February 14, 2022

5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Members: Kevin Stelljes, Joe Knight, Missy Christopherson, Gary Gibson, Tami Schraufnagel

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Kathryn Schauf – County Administrator, Nick Smiar – Ex Officio Member, Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Jacob Tumm – EC County Forester, Erika Gullerud – Fiscal Associate, Greg Leonard – Land Conservation Manager

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Chairman Stelljes called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

Verbal roll call was taken by the committee clerk and is noted above.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 10, 2022, meeting. Joe Knight moved to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes passed unanimously.

No members of the public were present.

The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a dedicated loop at Lowes Creek Park and/or Lake Eau Claire Park for skijoring. Minutes from 2019 show that the Committee on Parks and Forest discussed introducing skijoring in the Eau Claire County Parks back then. There are limited areas where skijoring is allowed even in other counties. Those who currently groom the park trails see evidence of people and their dogs skijoring in Eau Claire County. The most ideal trail for this activity should be wide and flat. Joe Knight motioned to create a one-year trial loop next season on the east side of Lowes Creek Park starting at the Expo Center and running through the “Clay Pit” area. All in favor, none opposed.

Altoona Schools request for flat fee rental of Tower Ridge for cross country race. Last season, Eau Claire County charged \$2 per participant, and it was decided then to increase the fee for the current 2022 season to \$4. The Altoona Schools scheduled their 2022 event last season and advertised the \$2 per participant fee prior to the increase. They would like to request that Eau Claire County would honor the last year’s price as the increase would make them over budget. Kevin Stelljes motioned subject to legal counsel approval to make an exception and honor last year’s fee of \$2 per participant for this year only. Next year, the fee will reflect the county code at \$4 per participant. All in favor, none opposed.

The Committee continues their dialogue regarding county forest carbon credits. There was concern about satisfying our own carbon credit goals by participating in this 40-year commitment proposed by Blue Source and how much our county forest practices will need to be altered. The Committee decided to schedule within the next 90 days a joint meeting with the Budget and Finance Committee as well as the Sustainability Committee and invite Blue Source to attend so they can be on hand to answer questions. Materials will be sent to those participating for their review prior to this meeting.

The committee discussed the need to make a change in the county code in order to create a more reasonable fee structure based on the fee structure for renting shelters and pavilions at the other

parcs within the county. The deposit rate for rental of any facility at the Expo Center went up last year from \$100 to \$1,000. The deposit of \$1,000 seems disproportionately high for renting the shelter only when the rental fee is \$50. Kevin Stelljes motioned to change the county code and exclude the pavilion at the Expo Center from the \$1,000 deposit. All in favor, none opposed.

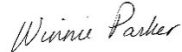
Josh Pedersen opened the discussion regarding the Heartwood Forest Group. The first step in acquiring any land is to get an appraisal. Because of the size of this tract of land held by the Heartwood Forest Group, Steigerwalt's appraisal cost is \$6,500. Our current budget is able to support this appraisal which can be reimbursed if the any of the proposed tracts of land are purchased. Kevin Stelljes motioned to authorize Josh Pedersen to move forward with the appraisal and spend up to \$6,500 from the Parks and Forest 2022 Operating Budget. All in favor, none opposed.

Director's Report – Josh Pedersen asked the Committee if there was a desire to support an update to a resolution to continue to control the wolf population. After a short discussion, the Committee decided not to place this issue on an upcoming agenda. The progress has slowed down with regards to seeking a grant for the acquisition of new county land. This grant request is on the agenda of the next Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors Meeting. Missy Christopherson has agreed to attend said meeting and after our grant request has come onto the floor and a motion and second have been made, she will then make a motion to have the grant be referred back to the Parks and Forest Committee for further review. Kicking Kids is going well this year and opening the frisbee parking lot is very much appreciated and helpful. Timber Revenue for 2021 is currently below budgeted amount, but an update will be given after more revenue has been entered. Vehicle Entrance Pass Sticker meters are slated to be installed by June.

The next meeting date was set for March 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,



Winnie Parker  
Committee Clerk  
Administrative Specialist III – Parks & Forest

**From:** [Kristen Giefer](#)  
**To:** [Josh Pedersen](#)  
**Cc:** [Erik Keisler](#)  
**Subject:** Beaver Creek's Earth Week Challenge  
**Date:** Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:13:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [BCR's Earth Week Challenge Overview 2022.pdf](#)

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**WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.**

Hi Josh,

Beaver Creek Reserve is starting to plan for our annual Earth Week Challenge again this year! The event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 16-Sunday, April 24**, with Earth Day on Friday the 22nd. I was wondering if the county would be interested in offering free admission to all the Eau Claire county parks again this year? Attached is an overview of the challenge.

After last year's challenge, we decided to reevaluate this year and focus it more on community events instead of simple tasks teams can complete for points. So we are including the Eau Claire Amazing Clean Up, UWEC's Green Week events, we are doing a pollinator run/walk here at BCR, and so much more. We would love to have the county participate again this year with free admission to the parks and including it as part of the community tasks to earn points. I know you had to bring it to a meeting to vote on last year, so I know this is early, but I wanted to check in before it was too late. I look forward to hearing back from you!

Kristen Giefer  
Outreach & Development Coordinator



# Beaver Creek Earth Week Challenge

April 16-24, 2022



## **Objective**

To encourage sustainable and environmental practices among citizens of the Chippewa Valley. Challenge items are designed to be either free or affordable, and will help you save money in the long run all while working to conserve vital resources. The tasks can also be easily integrated into most lifestyles even after the challenge is over. Participants will create teams and earn points for their “green” activities and be entered to win prizes!

In our first year, we had more than 50 teams comprising 170 people register to participate in the first-ever Earth Week Challenge! For our second year, we had 133 teams registered (which is about a 38% increase!) totaling 462 people, over 1,300 submissions, and almost 3,000 total points throughout the entire week! With our third annual Earth Week Challenge, we transitioned to more of a Covid-19 friendly version and still had a great number of participants! As we move into our fourth year with this challenge, we are adding new and improved community focused tasks which can be completed by people of all ages. Our task list is full of exciting events and has been strategically awarded points based off of task difficulty. Completing more tasks means bigger and better prizes!

## **Overview**

The Earth Week Challenge will encourage local citizens to engage in sustainable and environmentally focused activities to not only improve our immediate local environment, but to save money and have the chance to win some cool prizes.

How it works: Choose a team. A team can either be a family (Parent(s) + kids) or another group of up to 5 adults. Pick a team name and captain and register by following the link on the Earth Week Web Page. There is no registration fee or direct cost to participate (besides the Pollinator Fun Run/Walk). Participants will complete tasks to earn points.

Questions can be directed to [earthweek@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:earthweek@beavercreekreserve.org). Teams should keep track of their own points and activities. A .pdf, Word Document, and an Excel document with the full list of tasks will be available for teams to download on Monday, April 11.

## **How to Win?**

Teams that earn 1-5 points: Green Prizes!

Teams that earn 6-10 points: Earth Hero Prizes!

Teams that earn 11-15 points: Eco Champion Prizes!

*\*Separate prizes will be award to participants that attend the Pollinator Fun Run/Walk through a raffle.*

Prize packages are still being finalized and will be released closer to the date when registration opens April 11. Winning teams will be announced after Earth Week is over and will be notified when their prizes are mailed. UWEC students will have other prizes available to them! Stay updated on our website for prize details.

## **Rules**

- 1) Teams can consist of Families (i.e. Parent(s) + Kids residing in same household), Groups (defined as any other group of 5 or fewer adults. Could be roommates, friends, colleagues etc.), and Large Groups (business, school, daycare etc.)
- 2) Teams must register online. A link will be available on the Earth Week Challenge webpage. Registration will open Monday, April 11 and close on Sunday, April 24. There is no cost to register (besides the Pollinator Fun Run/Walk).
- 3) In order to receive the points for an activity, a picture must be taken with team members engaging in the task (not all members are required to be in the photo due to social distancing).
- 4) Photos can be submitted online via the Earth Week Challenge page on Beaver Creek Reserve's webpage. Please be prepared to choose your team name, and challenge task when uploading photos. All photos must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25.
- 5) All prizes will be mailed after winners are notified.
- 6) By participating in this challenge, all team members agree that Beaver Creek Reserve has the right to share photos via social meeting and for other marketing efforts related to the Earth Week Challenge.

## **Website**

Webpage with sub navigation on Beaver Creek Website

([www.beavercreekreserve.org/events/earth\\_week\\_challenge](http://www.beavercreekreserve.org/events/earth_week_challenge)) (webpage will be live by April 1)

Email questions: [earthweek@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:earthweek@beavercreekreserve.org)

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3  
4 AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND FOREST DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION  
5 TO THE STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR ANY  
6 FINANCIAL AID THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR MAINTAINING, ACQUIRING,  
7 INSURING OR DEVELOPING LANDS FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR MOTORIZED TRAILS  
8

9 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is interested in maintaining, acquiring, insuring, or  
10 developing lands for public outdoor motorized trails are eligible for snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle  
11 and/or motorized stewardship grant funds; and  
12

13 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors  
14 authorizes the Parks and Forest Director of the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department to  
15 act on behalf of Eau Claire County to submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department  
16 of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available; sign documents; and take  
17 necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.  
18

19  
20 I hereby certify that the foregoing  
21 correctly represents the action of the  
22 Committee on Parks and Forest Committee on  
23 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by a vote of  
24 \_\_\_\_ for, and \_\_\_\_ against.  
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27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Kevin Stelljes, Chair  
29 Committee on Parks and Forest  
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31 JP/yk

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4 AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT APPLICATION  
5 AND AGREEMENT WITH THE WISCONSIN DNR; DIRECTING THE PARKS AND  
6 FOREST DIRECTOR TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH GRANT  
7 REQUIREMENTS

8  
9 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public  
10 outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and,

11  
12 WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out he project.

13  
14 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors  
15 hereby authorizes the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Director to act on its behalf to:

- 16  
17 • sign and submit the application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural  
18 Resources for any financial aid that may be available,  
19 • sign and submit reimbursement claim along with necessary supporting  
20 documentation within 6 month of project completion date,  
21 • sign a grant agreement with WI-DNR and  
22 • take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Eau Claire County will comply with state or federal  
25 rules for the programs; may perform force account work; will maintain the completed project in  
26 an attractive, inviting and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during  
27 reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin  
28 Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any  
29 change is made in the use of the project site.

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31  
32 I hereby certify that the foregoing  
33 correctly represents the action of the  
34 Committee on Parks and Forest Committee on  
35 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by a vote of  
36 \_\_\_\_ for, and \_\_\_\_ against.

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39 \_\_\_\_\_  
40 Kevin Stelljes, Chair  
41 Committee on Parks and Forest

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43 JP/yk