



Fermilab Natural Areas Organizational Meeting

21 February 2008

Minutes

1. Introduction & call to order by Jim Volk
2. Jim Volk is nominated as meeting chair
3. Jolie Macier is nominated as meeting secretary
4. Jim Volk introduces Fermilab Natural Areas, including background information & mission overview; introduces Rod Walton to offer a formal presentation
5. Rod Walton, Fermilab ecologist and Ecological Land Management Committee (ELM) member, presents a discussion of Fermilab Natural Areas (FNA).
 - a. As part of his presentation, Walton reviews Fermilab's preservation efforts to date, including 1100 acres prairie restoration; 700 acres forest; reforestation effort; 2000 agriculture acres.
 - b. Background on FNA effort – employee-driven, program of FRA; 3-fold mission: education/outreach, research, restoration
 - i. Business plan/funding: grants, business, FRA, memberships
 - ii. Oak Savanna Project review
 - c. In response to an attendee's question about whether preservation work supersedes future physics efforts on a given plot of land, Walton replied that high energy physics is the mission of the laboratory. Fermilab Roads & Ground manager Mike Becker added that the Laboratory (& management) is sensitive to restoration & considers these issues. Fermilab engineer Tom Peterson added that it is likely that an experiment would only take portions of a restored area.
 - d. Another attendee asked about the role of the land committee [Ecological Land Management Committee] with respect to FNA. Walton responded that land restoration issues have historically been dealt with by the Prairie committee. The ELM Committee now serves this role, considering the entire ecosystem in its management approach. As for the relationship between ELM & FNA, ELM focuses on land management practices and makes recommendations to the director of the lab. FNA is separate from the lab & executes projects.
 - e. An attendee asked how FNA projects are authorized. Walton indicated that the Board of Directors will make recommendations based on input from its advisors. To execute projects, however, FNA will need approval from DOE (as they own the land). Peterson added that the ELM plan is updated each year and approved by Fermilab's Director. FNA activities would be considered in the ELM plan.
 - f. Shawna Coronado asked about the investment of savanna plantings with respect to global warming, indicating that perennials have a greater tolerance for ½-1-degree heat increase. Native regional oaks likely don't have the same heat tolerance. Jim Volk responded that this is precisely the role of the Board of Directors, to offer direction, background, insight, etc. to help identify and select the correct projects and project components.

- g. An attendee indicated he often feels like he is sneaking on site and asked how to make the site more inviting? Rod Walton responded that the savanna area is “officially” restricted; should the project go forward successfully, this status should be clarified with Fermilab & DOE to let neighbors enjoy an amenity. Mike Becker added that the shutdown of the Main Ring in near-term (2009 – 2010) may impact access procedure.
 - h. An attendee asked about surrounding communities with conservation interests in their boundaries? Walton replied that such efforts could be part of the potential evolution of the FNA; currently work with others – seed exchange, forest preserve districts, park districts, etc.
 - i. Mitch Adamus asked whether the National Environmental Research Park is still active. Walton responded that since 1987, the framework exists for research at the site. Accomplished via Memos of Understanding, folks can do research here. ANL , for example, has a number of projects (e.g., carbon sequestration) currently underway
 - j. An attendee asked: “what happens to the land if the lab is operated at a minimal level? Walton answered that it is difficult to speculate. Near-term – lots of physics. If we can make the area better & better, if DOE decides to sell off the land, it would be more difficult for the state to turn it over to developers.
 - k. Shawna Coronado asked about the feasibility of existing as a state park? Walton discussed the reversionary clause issue between the state and federal governments regarding the site. Jim Volk added that it is difficult for the land management to discuss its own demise. City of Batavia recognizes the balance that Fermilab provides to the region. As a community member, Shawna reiterated the importance of the jobs that Fermilab provides to the region.
 - l. Q&A concludes
6. Adoption of a resolution to form Fermi Natural Areas
- All agree to the motion. We have an organization
7. Charter members sign in
8. ByLaws – review & approve
- a. Article I, III, IV, V and VI, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII are approved without amendment
 - b. Article II: Purpose
 - i. Attendees suggested additional wordsmithing by the Board of Director’s to clarify mission.
 - c. Article VII: Board of Directors
 - i. Rod Walton suggested a change to quarterly meetings, with wording that additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the president of the Board of Directors.
 - ii. Rod Walton made a motion to offer complimentary membership for Board members; Dick Untch seconds. Tom Peterson voiced disagreement. Motion fails.

- iii. Rod Walton made a motion that the total of number of the board members, including the officers should equal nine. Motion carries
- iv. Rod Walton made a motion to merge the secretary & treasurer officers. Motion carries.

As amended, article 7 carries.

9. Nomination of Board of Directors – noted in bold; other meeting attendees listed

Jim Volk	Tom Peterson	John Ray
Marlin Bowles	Barb Kristen	John Clayton
Rod Walton	Mitch Adamus	Fritz DeJongh
Jolie Macier	Mary Jo Murphy	Denis Bowron
Shawna Coronado	Sue Sheehan	Jon Cooper
Mike Becker	Dick Untch	Evelyn Campbell
Pam Becker	Bob Schipp	Bob Lootens

Board of Directors accepted by unanimous vote.

10. Motion approved to allow members 30 days to pay dues.

11. First Board of Directors meeting set for Thursday in March, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. at Fermilab.

12. Motion to adjourn.

Minutes prepared by Jolie Macier