# 1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

# 1000 ISLANDS COMMITTEE

City of Kaukauna
**Nature Center Building**
1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna

Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 6:30 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present** White, Breitzman, Eggleston, Timmons, West, Manion, and VanBerkel

**Not Present** Hietpas

**Also Present** Brad Garrity, Cassandra Kohls, and Payton Chevalier

Breitzman called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. A quorum was present.

Manion motioned to go out of order, moving "Introduction of Summer Naturalist Intern" under Public Appearances. Motion seconded by Eggleston. Motion carried**.**

**Public Appearances**
Payton Chevalier, the 1000 Islands Naturalist Intern, introduced herself to the Committee. Manion inquired about her future pursuits. Chevalier mentioned that she is interested in a career in wildlife biology. She is beginning her senior year at UW-Oshkosh in the Environmental Science program. Eggleston inquired as to what she did at the Center. Chevalier stated that she enjoys working at the Nature Center and has helped with field trips both onsite and off-site, removing invasive plants and cleaning. Her summer project was to redesign the 1000 Islands brochure. White inquired as to how long she would be at the Center. Chevalier announced that she will leave at the end of August.

**May 21, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes**
Manion moved to approve the minutes, seconded by VanBerkel. Motion carried.

**May Financial Report**
Garrity thanked River Valley Outdoorsmen for their donation and explained the auto supplies increased due to fuel costs. Manion motioned to approve the May Financial Report, seconded by VanBerkel. Motion carried.

**June Financial Report**
VanBerkel motioned to approve the June Financial Report, seconded by West. Motion carried.

**Correspondence** - None

**Friends of 1000 Islands Report**
In Hietpas' absence, Garrity reported the Friends Committee met after the Art Fair in May. Ideas for next year's event were shared. The committee works to increase membership. 1000 Islands is directing volunteers to volunteer through Friends. Eggleston suggested offering smaller and more frequent activities for fellowship opportunities which would build volunteer engagement and support for larger events.

**May-June Naturalist Report**
Garrity announced that Kaukauna has once again earned *High Flyer* status from Bird City Wisconsin. He praised the City Council and residents for their support of birds. Jabber's cage has been donated to J&R Aquatics.

1000 Islands hosted 20 field trips in May. Public programming included an Oriole Bird Feeder Clinic with help from volunteers, Bill and Heddy Lettau, who developed the bird house blueprint and kits for the program and assisted with assembly on the day of the event. Garrity attended a spring presentation at Kaukauna Library for Park School. The Junior Naturalist program concluded for the season and will be expanded to twice monthly for the first semester in Fall.

The Fox-Wolf Watershed cleanup was successful, with 27 volunteers collecting 25 bags of trash and 15 bags of recycling.

A contractor fixed the water line serving the Nature Center and the Street Department repaired the street and landscaping near the west entrance. The funds for that project came from the front entry renovation, which is expected to come in under budget. VanBerkel stated that the relationship staff has developed with the city is beneficial because CIP may be used for projects such as this. Eggleston noted that having the Street Department provide the labor reduced costs for 1000 Islands.

Staff performance reviews were held at the mid-point of the year. Employees hired earlier in the year received their pay in advance, before the review results were issued. Garrity noted that this approach simplifies the payroll process.

The Passport to Nature program has been successful. 1000 Islands ran out of passport booklets but is offering activity pages from the booklet to those that wish to participate. The activity offered at 1000 Islands is crayfishing.

Garrity finished his CPR course. The goal would be for the city to provide CPR training to every city employee. Manion indicated Police and Fire offered CPR training for employees in the past.

Garrity highlighted well-attended public events like Pollinator-palooza and Crayfishing. The Appleton Public Library brought amateur photographers to 1000 Islands. Master gardeners have offered to help with gardening tasks. To allow gardener volunteers to monitor their progress, gardens will be zoned.

The Kaukauna Goats cleared the browsing area and reduced the invasive plants. Chevalier mucked the goat enclosure and helped volunteers with watering. Seven groups from Saint Paul Elder Services came out to visit the goats. PBS came to film *Wisconsin Life*. White and Garrity were interviewed. Mayor Penterman attended. The program will air in January. The Center may host a watch party. Garrity thanked volunteer, Penni Pautz, for reaching out to PBS. This fall marks 10 years of goats at 1000 Islands. Eggleston suggested promoting "the running of the goats".

**Sub-Committee Meetings**

**Admin-Finance Sub-Committee**
VanBerkel mentioned the September 2 meeting of department heads to discuss the 2027 budget and suggested that other sub-committees meet prior to that date to gather ideas for the 5-year CIP. Garrity stated that Director Vosters will attend the next committee meeting and present the drafted operational budget.

**Education Sub-Committee** – No meeting.

**Building and Grounds Sub-Committee** – No meeting.

**Old Business**
Staff obtained estimates for the Eagle Camera project. Gonnering was unable to get a response from the initial contractor. Phase 1 estimates are approximately $10,000. Phase 2 is expected to begin next year and cost about twice as much as Phase 1. The City of Kaukauna also received a $1,000 donation from the Fox Heritage Run to support the project. The funds have been deposited into the 1000 Islands restricted account.

The dam where the habitat camera will be located is currently under construction. The camera will capture eagles in the trees surrounding the nest, as well as other wildlife near the nest.

**New Business**
VanBerkel nominated Breitzman to serve as Committee Chair. Manion seconded the motion, and Breitzman accepted the nomination. Motion carried.

Manion nominated Timmons to serve as Committee Vice-Chair. White seconded the motion, and Timmons accepted the nomination. Motion carried.

Garrity stated Karl Zornow will join the 1000 Islands Committee once the Mayor confirms his appointment.

**Good for the Center**
The Committee recognized Deb Jakel for her service on the Committee.

**Next Committee Meeting**
The next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

**Adjournment**
There being no further business, VanBerkel moved to adjourn the July 16, 2026, Committee Meeting at 7:39 PM. Seconded by White. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls