Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council Meeting  
Thursday, 12 October 2006  
7:30 p.m.  
Gibbs House  
4503 Parkview Ave

The recorded comments below are expressions of council members and are not approved policy until voted on. The statements were not recorded verbatim and cannot be used as quotes.

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order  
Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call  
a. Sign-In Roster  
Guests Present: Carla Koretsky, Danielle Hunt, Melanie Haveman, George G. Daves, Kay Chase (rep. for Tyler Bassett)

III. Adoption of Agenda  
Tom Edmonds moved to adopt the 12 October 2006 meeting agenda. Pat Klein seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

IV. Approval of 13 July 2006 Meeting Minutes  
Mark Hoffman moved to approve the 13 July 2006 meeting minutes. Bob Nagler seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

Bob Nagler suggested Cari DeLong be given a title. The Council agreed on Asylum Lake Council Coordinator.

V. Old Business  
Asylum Lake Water Quality Study  
Chuck Ide  
A description of both Dr. Koretsky’s and Kieser’s preliminary results for August sampling was given out. Dr. Carla Koretsky and Melanie Haveman explained their work. Water samples were analyzed filtered and unfiltered for each of the elements indicated. Most elements were at levels they expected to see. However, cadmium levels were high throughout sample sites when compared to EPA drinking water standards. Would like to collect more samples and repeat with ICP MS which could measure more accurately. Possible causes of high cadmium levels, taken from the EPA website, include corrosion of galvanized pipes, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries, runoff from waste batteries and paints. Don’t know if a danger to people swimming or if these levels are different than other lakes.

Sediment sampling included a 3 step extraction to target labile forms of elements. When levels were compared to literature, none of the levels raised concern. However it is important to keep in mind that this method does not overestimate and there is argument about what constitutes toxicity in the sediment.
Dr. Ide brought up a paper written by the EPA in 2000 on ecotoxicity. When comparing the levels considered ecologically toxic by this paper and the levels found at Asylum Lakes, Pb and Zn were of concern. Both were high at sampling site AL-2.

Dr. Koretsky also noted that Little Asylum was different from Asylum Lake for Mg, Ni, Co, Cr, Zn and Fe. However, levels might be due to the fact that the lake had just been treated for algae. Possible contributions to the higher levels could be that there are at least 2 outfalls that drain into Asylum Lake and, according to the lake bathymetry, there is a structure below the water on the west side.

The Water Quality Committee will meet to decide on the direction for further testing.

VI. New Business
None.

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports
a. Research/Education Committee
None.

b. Operations Committee
Kay Chase reported for the Operations Committee. The Committee met in July and is now being notified through email of the research proposals. Chad Avery would like to meet with researchers before they begin in order to establish contact.

VIII. Public Comments
a. Gibbs House Operation and History
Danielle Hunt, Gibbs House Coordinator
Danielle gave an overview of the Gibbs House. It was built in 1860 and acquired by WMU about 50 years ago. In 2002 it came under the leadership of the Environmental Institute, Dr Ide (Director of Env. Inst.) and Jason Weeby (program founder). The program provides undergrads with hands on research experience. Students in any major can submit proposals for year long projects that improve the sustainability of the house or property and include a community outreach component. This program has been going on for 4 years with 13 students and thousands of dollars in grant moneys. This year projects include a community research room, organic vegetable garden, waste management project, and a structural energy audit.

Paul added that the University is interested in improving the landscape and making it easier to maintain. Bob O’Boyle is currently working on a landscape design.

IX. Council/Staff Comments
Paul passed out an update of the dog patrol at Asylum Lake. Eight citations and zero warnings were handed out from Aug 12, 2006 to Sept. 9, 2006. Paul requested that the Council decide whether or not to continue patrols by animal control during the winter. There was general consensus from the Council to continue patrols through the winter. The money for the patrols is taken out of the maintenance fund. Maintenance fund will be reported on next time.

X. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:29p.m.