



Prepare Each Student To Be Successful

Boston School Forest

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STEVENS POINT
AREA PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Boston School Forest Advisory Council Quarter 1 Meeting November 12, 2025 Oelke Lodge

- Arrival & Welcome: Welcome to Sophia Bluma, SPASH student representative
- Present: Alex, Jessica, Sophia, Gretchen, Jeff, Christie, Kelly, Jeremy, Sally, Chris, Mike, Elyse, Jim, Karla
- Review/Discussion of 2024-2025 Year End Report (review on your own).

- Financial Report
 - General Monetary Donations – Boy Scout Troop 201 \$25; Kathryn Gottwald \$150 via Revtrak;
 - CFCW Recent Contributions: Robert Fisch: \$250; Cory Hirsbrunner \$1/paycheck
 - In-Kind Donations – Oakview Veterinary Medical Center Inc – 2 free chinchilla exams; Eagle Tree Care LLC traffic cones; Prime Water Anglers 5 fishing rod/reels and 2 complete tackle boxes; Gene & Lorraine Jacobs – misc. supplies; Bill Jenkins – 6 bushels of apples; Lowes - bus stop and risers valued at \$2,500
 - Forest Family Fun Run/Walk Donations – Feltz’s Dairy Store - 10# cheese curds; Anytime Fitness - cups/swag, Worzella & Sons Inc. - water bottles, T&A’s Boneyard Screen Printing - \$1 discount on t-shirts valued at \$244; Kwik Trip - \$200 gift card for fruit and snacks; The Family Radio – commercials promoting event valued at \$160
 - Grants –
 - Fund 21 expenditures – BDW Enterprises \$8,250 for new Pedal Power. T&A’s Boneyard \$2,000 for Fun Run T-shirts; Menards \$700 for updates to Discovery Center and history display. Maple syrup supplies from the Educational Enrichment grant have been purchased. Balance as of October 31, \$90,791.66

- Old Business (Use and Activity)
 - Student groups
 - Summer School Great Outdoors – 40 students
 - Summer School Archery Class – 36 students
 - Summer Archery League – 29 students
 - Summer School Hunter Safety – 30 students
 - Bridge to Success – 40 students, 8 adults
 - Ben Franklin Student Council – 26 students, 3 adults
 - 3rd Grade – 496 students, 195 adults
 - 8th Grade – 474 students, 25 adults
 - 5th Roosevelt High Ropes w/ Randy Shirek – 81 students, 6 adults
 - 6th Roosevelt High Ropes w/ Randy Shirek – 68 students, 8 adults
 - 5th Grade – 473 students, 126 adults
 - 10th Grade – 453 students, 7 adults

- Scout groups
 - Boy Scout Troop 201 8/25/25 – 42 people
 - Samoset Council BSA 9/18/25 – 23 people
 - Girl Scouts 6165 10/7/25 – 22 people
 - Samoset Council BSF 10/16/25 – 23 people
 - Cub Scout Pack 297 10/20/25 – 60 people
 - Girl Scouts 6165 10/23/25 – 22 people
 - Girl Scouts 6165 11/6/25 – 22 people

- Other groups/visitors/volunteers
 - Golden Sands Resource and Development Council, Inc. Workshop – 50 people
 - District 6 Trappers Association – 100 People
 - Canaland Summer Field Trip – 30 people
 - EBOC Reservation Summer School – 20 students, 2 adults
 - Family Camps – 10 families, 36 people
 - Fun Run/Walk Participants – 180 people
 - Family Fun Run/Walk Volunteers – 18 people
 - Flashlight Friday Participants – 120 people
 - Flashlight Friday Volunteers – 13 people
 - Mid-State Law Enforcement Class – 21 people
 - Community Church Day Group – 32 people
 - Plover Clovers 4-H Club – 34 people
 - Community Church Overnight Retreat – 30 people
 - Rotary Club Volunteers – 12 people
 - ODC Field Trip – 10 people
 - Wisconsin Society of American Foresters Conference Field Trip - 60 people
 - UWSP Observation Students – 73 people

- Past events & activities
 - Log Replacement – The Log Doctors completed the work in August and the logs are repaired, sealed, and look great.
 - Pedal Power – Pedal Power was delivered in September and it is better than I could have imagined. We look forward to using this with our 6th graders and changing the lesson slightly to better use this equipment.
 - Mr. B's Discovery Center Updates – Thank you for approving the \$2,000 from our donation account for these updates. We've spent \$700 so far. Alex is working on creating a wood/plexi case for the skull display.
 - Family Camps – This summer we hosted 2 family camps. Each camp had 5 families. Activities included team building, cooking over a campfire, night hike, owl program, nature crafts, and plenty of play time. We plan to offer more Family Camps this next year.
 - Hunter Education – This summer we offered Hunter Safety as a summer school class. Alex, Kurt Freund, Landon Dehnel, and Karla taught 2 sections. It went so well and all 30 students were certified. We plan to offer Hunter Safety again next year for summer school.

- Forest Family Fun Run/Walk – Overall we had a great turn out and good weather. Participants reported that the trails were kept beautifully (thank you Alex) and volunteers and snacks were appreciated.
 - Flashlight Friday – Beautiful weather contributed to a record number of people attending this event (3rd annual). Thanks to UWSP for hosting the Astronomy station. There were night-time crafts, night hike, campfire stories, and apple cider press.
 - Community Outreach – Jean hosted an activity station at the PCHHS Cultural Fair in August. Karla hosted an activity station for the Golden Sands Resources Conservation & Development Conservation Day for 5th graders in Waupaca County.
 - Lake Pacawa Story Walk – Currently on display is Wild Child by Lynn Plourde. The next book will be Night Owl Night by Susan Edwards Richmond. This book is dedicated to Gene and Lorraine Jacobs in honor of their dedication to the saw-whet owl banding and research over the past 20+ years. Gene and Lorraine retired this past summer.
 - Retirement and Mandana Bliss Award – Kathie Plaisance retired in July. She continues to substitute for us and volunteers every Thursday! It was my honor to nominate her for the Mandana Bliss Award which she received at the October School Board meeting. Congratulations, Kathie, and thank you for your continued dedication to our students, staff, and community.
 - New Hire – BSF is proud to hire Jessica Vassar as the new Naturalist Educator. Jessica has a degree in Elementary Education and minor in Environmental Education from UWSP. She taught elementary school in our district before staying home with her children. Jessica is a great addition to our team and we are so happy to have her. Welcome Jessica.
 - Lowe’s Donation – A huge thanks to Lowe’s (Beth, Troy, Barry, Paul, Alex and others) for designing, building, installing and donating all the materials and time to construct a bus stop and risers for BSF. This was a huge surprise and we are so appreciative of this amazing gift! The Lowe’s team was Barry, Troy, Beth, Alex, Paul, Francis, Monique, and Trent.
- New Business (Discussion Items)
 - Upcoming activities/needs
 - Timber Harvest – Alex and Karla are working with WDNR Foresters Lyle Eiden and Alex Hornung to conduct a timber harvest this winter to help slow the progression of HRD. Bids will be posted this month. Our target timeline is a February harvest when the ground is frozen and the fungus is dormant. This cut will harvest much of the standing timber and be profitable for BSF. However, because of the disease and subsequent, there will likely only be one or maybe 2 more harvests before all mature red and white pines have been harvested.
 1. Gretchen suggested making the timber harvest into a teaching opportunity for WRA, Tech Ed., and Ag. Ed. Classes. She said to connect with Jarad Schroeder from the Wisconsin Forestry Center at UWSP to have a harvester simulator available for students. This might be a great opportunity for the Earth Day event and Karla will reach out to him.
 - Ski Shack Replacement –
 1. Need – The Ski Shack trailer was moved to BSF 45 years ago and has graciously served as a classroom, Discovery Center and Ski Shack. In recent years, it has started to deteriorate. With the accumulated donation account, pending timber

harvest, and future fundraising, we plan to replace this building with a more efficient, and safer lodge for students.

2. Student Involvement – Karla, Jeff, and Alex are looking to partner with Brent Gostomski and the Youth Apprenticeship program at SPASH. We’d like some type of student involvement with the construction or projects related to the Ski Shack.
 - a. Gretchen suggested reaching out to Mike Cheslock with the Rhinelander School Forest about how Tech Ed students were involved in the construction/renovation of their education building. Karla will do that.

3. Next Steps –

- a. Identify general contractors/construction partners
 - i. Jim suggested a nearly retired general contractor such as Dave Belk who is a retired PJs Tech Ed Teacher. We would need to look to see who carried the liability insurance: construction company or district.
 - ii. Mike reminded us that we can just hire someone we know, that they also need to be competitive in cost, timeline, etc.
 - b. Plan out building design and estimate cost of project
 - i. Karla and Alex will meet with Christ Budzinski
 - c. Identify fundraising avenues
 - i. CFCW – Major Project Cycle opens May 15 up to \$50K. Prevail Bank also has a community grant available dur March 15.
 - ii. Polar Pond Plunge x 2+ years
 - iii. Raffle at events? Raffle license?
 1. Raffle license is needed. Karla to call about that.
 - iv. Calendar or BSF merch sale? T-shirts?
 1. We will move forward with a calendar sale, vinyl stickers, t-shirts and hoodies.
 - v. Donors will be displayed on Thank You sign in new building.
- Polar Pond Plunge – Saturday, December 13, 2025. 10:00am – Noon. Registration is open on the website. Please promote and/or consider taking the plunge.
 1. Jeff is confirmed. Jim is confirmed. Chris is maybe. Karla is confirmed.
 - Winter Open House – Monday, January 19 and/or January 26, 2026
 - Maple Syrup Event in March possible (?)
 - Earth Day Celebration – Sunday, April 19, 2026

- Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

- Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, January 28, 2026 – 4:00pm (Oelke Lodge and/or via Google meet)
 - Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – 4:00pm (Oelke Lodge and/or via Google meet)
 - TBD

- Adjournment