

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance

Public Hearing Testimony - Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Draft Master Plan
September 10, 2015

I am Gail Lamberty, vice president of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and co-chair of the Badger Forward Committee. The mission of the Alliance is quite simply to implement the Badger Reuse Committee Report. We will be submitting formal comments for your review.

However for right now, I would like all of us to just stop for a moment. Take a breath, step back and remember why we are here.

Look at this room, look around at all these people. Why are we here? What are we doing tonight?

You, WDNR have been the spokesperson for the people of Wisconsin, and we thank you.

We thank you for being, along with the Alliance and 19 others, co-creators of the Badger Reuse Committee Report. The state of Wisconsin actually had 3 of the 21 seats on that committee. Your role was huge. You created the nine values to guide the future use of the property. You, your neighboring land owners Ho-Chunk, Dairy Forage, and Bluff View Sanitary said it's not about who owns which piece of the property, we will manage it together as a whole. Thank you for the promise to uphold those nine values.

We thank you for being specific in your application to the National Park Service. You told them the property will be used primarily for conservation and low impact recreation -- hiking, picnicking, prairie, savanna and grassland restoration. What an amazing opportunity, and what a great commitment to that abused beat up landscape. Thank you for making that promise.

We thank you for studying the property so very carefully in the 2012 property analysis. You defined the best role for Badger as restoration with compatible recreation. Recreation that is compatible with restoration. Clearly stated. The recreation -read that re-creation -only compatible with restoration-- giving back to mother earth what she has given us. Thank you for that promise.

You have put your signature on the line to the documents that obtained this acreage with promises to the land, promises to your neighboring land owners and the promises to the generations that will follow us. For over ten years you have made promises to this land and we thank you.

Sometimes the poets say it better than all our detailed analysis, mountains of reports, hours of meetings:

We have miles to go and promises to keep

We have miles to go and promises to keep