

Proposed Devils Lake Interpretive Center

Events to Date

June 1, 2018	RFQ for Interpretive Center issued by FODL
July 9, 2018	Due date for RFQ applications, 9 received
July & August 2018	WDNR, FODL Board, DLCC evaluate RFQ applications
Late August 2018	GWWO Architects chosen by WDNR, FODL Board, DLCC for site analysis & evaluation
Early October 2018	GWWO Architects held initial meeting with WDNR, FODL Board, DLCC, begins work
November 14, 2018	GWWO Architects met with WDNR, FODL Board, DLCC on preliminary findings
December 12, 2018	WDNR held meeting with FODL membership

Anticipated Future Events

January 2019	WDNR, FODL Board, DLCC to meet with GWWO Architects about draft report
Mid 1 st Qtr 2019	WDNR, FODL Board, DLCC to meet with stakeholder organizations
Late 1 st Qtr 2019	WDNR, FODL, DLCC to hold information meeting for the general public
Early 2 nd Qtr 2019	GWWO Architects to meet with WDNR, FODL Board, DLCC about final report
Mid 2 nd Qtr 2019	WDNR, FODL, DLCC to issue final GWWO Architects report, with site and schematic

Details of Events to Date

An Interpretive Center has been in the works to be built at Devils Lake State Park (DLSP) for several decades. In 1982, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) adopted a Master Plan for Devils Lake State Park that included a future interpretive center. Over the years, various initiatives to build the interpretive center got started but eventually stalled.

In 2017, interest in building the interpretive center was rejuvenated. A big reason this effort got going is because it was proposed to finance and build the interpretive center from private funds, with WDNR oversight as to site, design and function, and WDNR ownership upon completion. Since the Friends of Devils Lake State Park Inc (FODL) has worked with WDNR on other DLSP projects, WDNR approached FODL to be the entity to handle the proposed financial aspects for the proposed interpretive center. After much discussion, at the end of 2017 the FODL Board agreed that FODL would do so.

The site, design and functionality of the proposed interpretive center had been discussed over the years but had not been defined, so this needed to be determined first and foremost for a center to get built. It was proposed that FODL issue a RFQ (Request For Qualifications) for firms to submit an application for concept-level architectural and site design and programming for the interpretive center, with the funding to be provided by Devils Lake Concessions Corporation (DLCC). On June 1, 2018, the RFQ was issued with July 9, 2018 as the due date for the applications. As a result, nine firms submitted application from all around the country. WDNR, FODL and DLCC used selection criterion to narrow the list and this same group performed in-person interviews with three of the firms. In August 2018, GWWO Architects Inc. (GWWO) was selected by the group.

GWWO began its work by Alan Reed and John Gregg of GWWO coming to DLSP in October 2018. One purpose was to visit the potential sites firsthand to have a better understanding of characteristics of each site and as well as to how the sites differ. A second purpose was to meet with members of WDNR, FODL and DLCC to understanding what uses and functionality was desired in an interpretive center. A healthy day-long dialogue among the parties enabled GWWO to start the development of the factors to be used to evaluate and compare the potential sites.

In November 2018, GWWO presented its initial work to WDNR, FODL and DLCC. GWWO used the Choosing By Advantages (CBA) process to guide the site selection process. CBA is a decision-making process to compare multiple variables. The process identifies factors and their attributes to objectively compare alternative sites to determine the most advantageous site. The group discussed the factors and attributes in detail and some were refined as a result. By comparing sites and assigning “Good”, “Better” and “Best” to each attribute for each site, how the sites differ and by how much becomes more apparent. The resulting matrix provided a guide to compare the potential sites, in an overall way and for specific factors.

On December 12, 2018, Kathryn Gehrke and Ken Keeley of WDNR-Madison held a meeting with the membership of FODL, with participation by others who also have been involved in the process, such as WDNR DLSP staff, FODL board members, and DLCC members. The purpose of the meeting was not only to present information as to what has happened with the project, but also to address their questions and solicit their comments or concerns. The meeting included an exercise that allowed every attendee to voice their questions, comments or concerns, which WDNR jotted down to augment the information already known or gathered for the project.

Future Meetings

WDNR, FODL Board and DLCC to meet with stakeholder organizations

Date, Time & Place - To Be Determined

Purpose: 1) to describe what has happened with the project, 2) to address their questions, comments or concerns, 3) to find out which organizations want to have a presence in the interpretive center, what that presence would involve, and how that presence may differ for the sites under consideration.

WDNR, FODL, DLCC to hold information meeting for the general public

Date, Time & Place - To Be Determined

Purpose: 1) to describe what has happened with the project, and 2) to address questions, comments or concerns that the general public may have.