

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
7:05 pm
via Teleconference

ACTION ITEMS IN **RED**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Jack Kussmaul.

Roll Call

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Bill Hogseth, Nick Faessler, Richard Henderson, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Tori Graham, Henry Panowitsch, Paul Rode, Jean Clark, Richard Oberle, Jeff Ralston

Staff: Carol Winge, Victoria Oberle

Adopt Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was accepted as presented.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Tori Graham to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

a. Jack Kussmaul noted that our accountant was not able to join us tonight to provide us with a presentation on financial statements.

b. Treasurer, Nick Faessler, presented the December 31, 2011 Unaudited Statement of Financial Position to the board. The report reflects a checking account balance for central of \$50,476.66. Total assets of the organization exceed \$6 million but the majority of this is in assets, not in available cash.

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Paul Rode to accept the December 31, 2011 (unaudited) Statement of Financial Activity. Motion carried.

Endowment Funds Report

Rich Henderson noted that all of the investment funds are doing well. A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Paul Rode to accept the endowment and trust reports. Motion carried.

Accreditation Committee

Jack Kussmaul provided an update on committee activity. He noted that the committee has now developed an implementation plan working with Land Trust Alliance and Gathering Waters. It provides a time line and leader for the list of priorities that were identified during our guided organization assessment completed last November. The LEAP grant recently awarded to TPE will provide \$6,000 in funds to provide resources to use in the implementation of these priorities. The committee is now deciding where best to use the funds but agree that strategic planning is the highest priority for the use of the funds.

Fundraising and Endowment Committee

Richard Oberle reported that our goal for the 2011 Annual Fund campaign was \$30,000 and 225 donors. As of January 20, we have received a total of \$30,257.74 from 245 donors. Of this, \$5,142.74 was received from 93 first time donors. \$5,000 of this total will be matched. This brings our overall total to \$35,257.74.

He announced that the Chapter Challenge winner is the Glacial Prairie Chapter. They will receive items for them to use in the silent auction/raffle.

Richard Oberle also announced that the Fundraising and Endowment Committee has challenged the Board to donate \$3,900 total (\$300/board member) in our 2012 operations budget and push for 100% participation. The committee is quite certain we will exceed the budget figure, but stresses the importance of 100% participation.

And finally Richard Oberle acknowledged the passing of Earl Muhlbauer. Earl has been a part of the Fundraising and Endowment Committee since it was created. He will be missed. The committee has reorganized, thanks to Jack Kussmaul. They met in January and it is re-energized and ready for the challenges ahead.

Land Protection Committee

- a. A motion was made by Tori Graham and seconded by Bill Hogseth to adopt the allocation of State Stewardship Credits Policy as presented. Motion carried.
- b. A motion was made by Jean Clark and seconded by Tori Graham to adopt the Land Valuation and Tax Benefit Policy as presented. Motion carried.
- c. A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Nick Faessler to approve the Definition of a Buffer as amended. Motion carried.
- d. Jim Rogala expressed that he feels mention of land management agreements in the Land Protection Policies and Procedures should be removed. Land management agreements should have separate policies and procedures. The Board sent this issue to the Land Protection Committee to be addressed at its next meeting.

Land Use Agreement with DNR

Carol Winge reported that our insurance does cover items listed in the Land Use Agreement. A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Rich Henderson authorizing Jack Kussmaul to sign the Land Use Agreement between TPE and the DNR. Motion carried.

Revisit Board Minutes Detail

Rich Henderson noted that for confidentiality we do not include the name of a project that we are negotiating on in our minutes. However, for projects with state stewardship funds, we have to provide a resolution and/or board meeting minutes showing board approval. Our abbreviated minutes cause a problem to be able to do this.

Evanne Hunt suggested we prepare minutes with a hide feature that hides the name of the project for posting purposes and that we disclose on line that minutes have been altered due to their sensitive nature. She will create a sample with this hide feature and send it to Jack, Rich and Carol for feedback. If they agree, she will show Carol how to use this hide feature for future minutes.

Approve 2012 Proposed Central/Chapter Budgets

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the 2012 Central Budget as presented. Motion carried.

With regard to Chapter budgets, Rich Henderson recommended that we remind chapters to include a comment on what "Other Expenses" are when they budget money in these line items so the Board has a feel for what they are planning to spend this money on.

The Empire-Sauk Chapter 2012 budget shows a -\$53,350 deficit. Rich Henderson reported that is because a lot of the grant money for the projects budgeted for 2012 was received in 2011 but will be spent in 2012 and will be transferred to cover these expenses in 2012.

A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Paul Rode to approve all 2012 chapter budgets as presented. Motion carried.

Election of Trustee to Serve on TPE Trust Board

Jack Kussmaul nominated Richard Oberle to the TPE Trust Board. A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Henry Panowitsch to elect Richard Oberle to serve on the TPE Trust Board. Motion carried.

Review and Possible Action to Approve Staff Job Descriptions

Board members were provided with draft job descriptions for an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant. Also the Administrative Oversight Committee had developed a staffing and funding proposal that they recommended be sent to all chapters to seek input. Jack

Kussmaul stated that at tonight's meeting we want board approval to send the staffing and funding proposal to all chapters so we have time to get their feedback in order to start the hiring process. Jack further noted that the board will be asked to take action on the proposed board governance model and job descriptions at its February meeting.

A motion was made by Jim Rogala and seconded by Tori Graham that we send the staffing and funding proposal to all chapters to get feedback. Motion carried.

Fire Management Equipment Needs

Carol Winge will contact Wisconsin chapters to see if they need to place any equipment orders through our agreement with the DNR.

2012 Prairie Enthusiast of the Year

A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Henry Panowitsch that Carol Benish and Earl Muhlbauer be selected as our 2012 Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year. Motion carried.

Reminder of Future Board Meetings

Board members agreed to change the May 23, 2012 Board meeting date to Wednesday, May 16.

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 via telephone conference call
Sunday, February 26, 2012, Country Inn & Suites, Menomonie, WI
Wednesday, May 16, 2012, via telephone conference call
Sunday, July 15, 2012, at Henry Panowitsch's farm
Wednesday, September 19, 2012, via telephone conference call
Wednesday, November 14, 2012, via telephone conference call

There being no further business, a motion was made by Henry Panowitsch and seconded by Tori Graham to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Winge
TPE Business Manager

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Board Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 26, 2012
9:00 am
Country Inn and Suites
Menomonie, WI

ACTION ITEMS IN **RED**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:00 am by President Jack Kussmaul.

Roll Call

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Bill Hogseth, Nick Faessler, Richard Henderson, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Tori Graham, Henry Panowitsch, Jean Clark, Richard Oberle, Jeff Ralston

Absent: Paul Rode

Staff: Carol Winge

Guests: Karen Agee, Scott Fulton, Scott Seigfreid, Mark Maidak, Gary Rathman, Peggy Traver, Jon Traver, Caroljean Coventree

Adopt Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was accepted as presented.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Rich Henderson to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Endowment Funds Report

Jon Traver, TPE investment consultant, presented the year-end report on TPE investment funds and summarized the policy to rebalance funds annually. He noted that TPE investments were up 2.1% in 2011. He noted that for the entire period the funds have been invested, they were up anywhere from 13-19% vs S&P that has been down 7-14% over that same period of time. We have had a lot less risk because of our investment policy and our annual rebalancing.

Board Action Regarding Trust Income Distribution

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Bill Hogseth to decline removing the 2011 earned income from the Trust at this time. Motion carried.

Land Protection Committee

Rich Henderson provided an update on the Wisconsin State Stewardship Grant program. The Wisconsin DNR administration has decided that it is too risky to accept donated easements without full public access with stewardship credit involved. So the DNR will not allow future Stewardship grants to be used in the purchase, or as a donation for use as credit, of any conservation easement that does not allow full unhindered public access (including all hunting and trapping). They also decided not to allow use of unused credit generated by past donated easements (without full public access) that were not used up in the last round of grants. Board members want to be able to accurately report this information to their chapters and questioned Rich further about exactly what this means.

ACTION ITEM: Rich Henderson will send an email to the Board members to explain what this means so they can report to their Chapters.

Education and Outreach Committee

The Committee action item was not ready to come to the board yet so this item was removed from the agenda.

Recommendation for Site Naming

The Empire-Sauk Chapter recommended that the new TPE prairie acquisition be called the Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie.

Glenn Smith had requested that it be called Phyllis Reiner-Smith Drumlin Prairie, in memory of his mother and her parents. Although Glenn was not in a financial position to give us a bargain sale, the chapter feels some obligation to honor his wishes because of his protecting/managing the prairie for the past 12 years, not selling for rural home development, and waiting 2 years for the grant funds to arrive. Glenn was very much in need of the money. The chapter leadership thought that the name Glenn requested was too long, and came up with Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie as a compromise. The chapter intends to recognize Phyllis in the preserve's kiosk.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Richard Oberle to approve the name Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie. Motion carried.

Approve Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Stock

Occasionally TPE receives stock as a donation. We sell the stock right away. The office used to use Merrill Lynch to handle the sale of stock received. In December 2011 we were notified they could no longer provide this service for TPE. Carol checked with the State Bank of Cross Plains and Summit Credit Union where our bank accounts and investments are located. Both financial institutions do provide this service. State Bank of Cross Plains was very complex and expensive. Summit Credit Union will provide this service for us free of charge. To establish the account with Summit Credit Union they require their resolution be approved by the Board. The

resolution is similar to the one the board adopted on May 10, 2011. Carol is asking the Board to approve the resolution provided by Summit Credit Union so she can get the account set up.

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Henry Panowitsch to approve the Resolution. Motion carried.

Board Governance and Staffing Discussion

Board members discussed funding options to hire an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant. They also discussed the need for strategic planning. Board members were not yet ready to commit to an executive director. Carol Winge suggested they consider hiring an interim executive director until such time as they complete strategic planning and the LEAP program. They will have a better direction of where TPE is going and can then make a decision on staffing needs.

The executive director draft job posting was reviewed. In light of the decision to seek an interim executive director, the job posting was sent back to the Administrative Oversight committee to redraft as appropriate.

ACTION ITEM: Regarding funding for an interim executive director, it was agreed that all board members would approach their respective chapters to see if they would be willing to adjust their chapter budgets to see what they are willing to do to help the organization.

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the concept of hiring an administrative assistant that would be hired by the Executive Director. Motion carried.

Bill Hogseth shared his thoughts on board governance stating that TPE needs to explore this as we begin our strategic planning.

Other Business

Jack Kussmaul announced that we are planning for a strategic planning session in conjunction with our annual picnic. It was agreed to hold a strategic planning session on Saturday, July 14 beginning at 11:00 am. Jack Kussmaul will provide more details on the session at the May 16 board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Henry Panowitsch agreed to find a site for the strategic planning meeting.

Richard Oberle requested that future board agendas have a place for future agenda items to be added. He requested that the May agenda include discussion on recognition of membership levels.

Reminder of Future Board Meetings

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, via telephone conference call

Saturday, July 14, 2012 – Strategic Planning Meeting, 11:00 am site to be determined

Sunday, July 15, 2012, at Henry Panowitsch's farm
Wednesday, September 19, 2012, via telephone conference call
Wednesday, November 14, 2012, via telephone conference call

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bill Hogseth and seconded by Rich Henderson to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Winge
TPE Business Manager

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Summary of Board Action
Vote By Email
Friday, May 4, 2012

The Prairie Enthusiasts Board of Directors voted by email for final approval to proceed with the acquisition of the Jason Ihm addition to Erbe Grassland.

The acquisition is for 36.37 acres. Funding is entirely from the Wisconsin State Stewardship grants, using credit from the Layton conservation easement donation.

This email vote was necessary to meet the closing deadline date on the acquisition.

Board vote was by email response as recorded below:

Jim Rogala – yes
Richard Henderson – yes
Nick Faessler – yes
Jeff Ralston – yes
Richard Oberle – yes
Henry Panowitsch – yes
Paul Rode – yes
Jack Kussmaul – yes
Alexandra Handlos - yes
Evanne Hunt – yes
Jean Clark - yes

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Winge
TPE Business Manager

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 16, 2012
7:05 pm
via Teleconference

ACTION ITEMS IN RED

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Jack Kussmaul.

Roll Call

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Richard Henderson, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Alexandra Handlos, Henry Panowitsch, Paul Rode, Jean Clark, Richard Oberle, Jeff Ralston

Absent: Nick Faessler

Staff: Carol Winge

Guests: Claudia Vlisides, Chris Kirkpatrick

President Jack Kussmaul announced that Tori Graham had stepped down from the Board and welcomed Alexandra Handlos, Board representative for the Glacial Prairie Chapter.

Jack Kussmaul also announced that Vice President Bill Hogseth has resigned from the Board. Bill has had many major changes in his personal life that keep him from serving on the Board as he would like. At this time he feels it best that he resign. Jack Kussmaul encouraged Board members to send any recommendations to replace Bill to him.

Adopt Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Alexandra Handlos to adopt the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Rich Henderson to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Statement of Financial Activity

TPE accountant, Claudia Vlisides, presented the March 31, 2012 statement of financial activity. There being no questions, a motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Paul Rode to accept the March 31, 2012 Statement of Financial Activity. Motion carried.

TPE 2011 Audit and 990 Reports

Claudia Vlisides presented the 2011 Audit. It is a consolidated report for TPE and TPE Trust. The report states that all financial information is as it should be. We couldn't get a better report.

She then presented the 990 tax reports. She noted that we are required to file separate reports for TPE and TPE Trust.

There being no questions, a motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the 2011 Audit and 990 tax reports as presented. Motion carried.

At this point Claudia Vlisides excused herself from the rest of the meeting.

Endowment Funds Report

The April 30, 2012 endowment funds reports were received by Board members.

At this point Chris Kirkpatrick excused himself from the meeting.

Administrative Oversight Committee

Jack Kussmaul provided an overview of the interview process for hiring an interim executive director. It quickly became apparent that the \$30,000-\$35,000 salary range the Board had approved was not going to get us anyone. People we interviewed were making \$70,000. Jack recommended that the Board approve hiring Chris Kirkpatrick at an 80% position initially for \$40,000 with the intent to make Chris full time by January 1, 2013 at a salary of \$50,000. Chris comes highly experienced in land trusts and knows TPE very well. He has a stable history of employment. Evanne Hunt stated how impressed she was with his experience. Paul Rode noted Chris is very good at grant writing. Jack stated that Chris has asked the Board to accept that his title be Executive Director, not interim executive director.

A motion was made by Alexandra Handlos and seconded by Paul Rode to approve hiring Chris Kirkpatrick as our TPE Executive Director at an 80% initial position with a starting salary of \$40,000. Motion carried.

Chris Kirkpatrick rejoined the meeting.

Accreditation Committee

a. Jack Kussmaul provided an update on the LEAP grant. The grant is for \$6,500 with a 20% cash match and a 30% cash or in kind match by TPE. The grant was approved to pay for strategic planning and fundraising plan development. TPE is committed to \$1,300 cash. Total costs for the strategic and fundraising planning will be about \$10,000. Of that we have \$7,800 already committed. We will need to pay the remaining funds from central operations. A motion was made by Paul Rode and seconded by Henry Panowitsch to proceed. Motion carried.

b. A motion was made by Jean Clark and seconded by Rich Henderson to adopt the Records Retention and Destruction Policy as presented. Motion carried.

Board Development Committee

a. The Board Development Committee had reviewed proposals from strategic planning firms and has recommended that we contract with Mayes/Wilson. A motion was made by Paul Rode and seconded by Rich Henderson to contract with Mayes/Wilson for strategic planning and fundraising plan development facilitation. Motion carried.

b. Jack Kussmaul summarized the Board evaluations noting the strengths and weaknesses that were identified. There are openings on the Board for members at large and Vice President. He encouraged Board members to recommend people who may bring skills that would address our weak areas to fill these positions.

Education and Outreach

a. Evanne Hunt presented the committee charter for Board approval. There was discussion about marketing and promotion. These elements are important and we need to make sure they get addressed in committees. Jim Rogala expressed that is really not this committee's charge. The committee is developing educational materials that may help promote the organization. Jean Clark noted that everything we do has to be promotion of TPE. It is everyone's responsibility.

A motion was made by Jeff Ralston and seconded by Jean Clark to accept the Education and Outreach Charter as recommended by the committee. Motion carried.

b. Evanne Hunt presented five project proposals for Board approval. She noted that the project proposal related to landowner informational brochures was not ready for board action and removed this item from the agenda until a later date.

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Jean Clark to approve the five project proposals recommended by the Education and Outreach Committee. Motion carried.

Fundraising and Endowment Committee

A motion was made by Jim Rogala and seconded by Henry Panowitsch to suspend all compass plan donation recognition except for the newsletter and annual report until such time as we establish a procedure to track the donations appropriately. Motion carried.

Land Protection Committee

a. A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Richard Oberle to adopt the Land Protection Policy and Procedures as presented. Motion carried.

b. A motion was made by Jim Rogala and seconded by Paul Rode to adopt the Management Agreement Policy and Procedures and Ranking Criteria Score Sheet changed to reference the attachments in the Management Agreement. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM: Jack Kusssmaul will revise the Management Agreement to reference the attachments.

Membership Committee

Richard Oberle has stated that there is no incentive for members to increase their dues level. He indicated that he will not pay a higher dues level unless and until such time as we publish member renewals and their renewal level somewhere like the Prairie Promoter. The Membership Committee discussed Richard's concern and recommends an alternative proposal for Board consideration and discussion. That is that we bring back the car stickers (similar to state park stickers) TPE used to issue several years ago.

- All members receive a sticker immediately. Actually, members can have several if they want.
- Members will get a new sticker each year with their renewal.
- The sticker has our logo and the member's membership level. They could vary in color (gold for bur oak, monarch; silver for blazingstar) or we could include a small emblem (oak tree, butterfly, etc.).

There followed lengthy discussion about membership recognition. We need to be careful that we do not overlook members who pay lower membership dues but contribute hours of volunteer time. Carol Winge noted that our new donor recognition reception is going to bring special recognition to members who give \$1,000 or more in a year to TPE. Through this program higher level memberships will be acknowledged. Perhaps that is more significant than seeing their name in the newsletter. And that recognition is already beyond what other members will receive for lesser cash donations to the organization. No action was taken on the proposal.

Appoint Ad Hoc Committee

A motion was made by Jim Rogala and seconded by Jeff Ralston that an ad hoc committee be established to develop criteria and an application process for chapters to request funds from the Olive and John Thomson Internship Endowment. Motion carried. The ad hoc committee members were appointed and they are: Rich Henderson, chair, Jim Rogala and Jeff Ralston.

Follow Up on Chapter Donations to Executive Director Salary

Board members reported the results of asking chapter membership to donate funds to support the Executive Director salary. The St. Croix, Glacial Prairie, and Many Rivers Chapters will donate a total of \$1,700. Empire-Sauk and Prairie Sands will do something but have not yet made a firm commitment. Jack Kusssmaul asked the chapters to go back to their membership and bring this up. We have a very talented Executive Director but need chapter support to make this work.

Update of Plans for Strategic Planning Session

Jack Kussmaul announced the date and site for our July 14 strategic planning session. It was agreed that we would start at 9:00 am. Jack stressed the importance of full chapter representation at this session. We must take this journey together.

Reminder of Future Board Meetings

Saturday, July 14, 2012, Strategic Planning Session, Best Western Plus, Mankato, MN

Sunday, July 15, 2012, at Henry Panowitsch's farm

Wednesday, September 19, 2012, via telephone conference call

Wednesday, November 14, 2012, via telephone conference call

There being no further business, a motion was made by Paul Rode and seconded by Henry Panowitsch to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Winge
TPE Business Manager

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Board Meeting Minutes
Sunday, July 15, 2012
Henry Panowitsch's Farm
55487 161 Street Lane
Good Thunder, MN

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by President Jack Kussmaul

Roll Call

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Nick Faessler, Rich Henderson, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Alice Mirk, Henry Panowitsch, Paul Rode, Jean Clark, Mark Leach, Richard Oberle.

Absent: Jeff Ralston

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick

Adopt Meeting Agenda

It was noted that one item will be added as 12B- Prairie festival. A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Paul Rode to adopt the meeting agenda with the additional item. The motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Richard Oberle to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

TPE Treasurer Nick Faessler presented the statement of financial position for June 30, 2012. The board discussed total income versus expense and it was noted that we are currently within budget however there will be a budget shortfall unless new funding comes in. The originally approved 2012 budget was a break even scenario, yet currently the budget shows a \$12,000 deficit. Nick presented changes to the current 2012 budget which reflect the hiring of the Executive Director. It was also noted that the Board would like to be able to compare the original budget versus the proposed changes presented. A motion was made by Paul Rode and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the statement of financial position and the revised 2012 budget. The motion carried.

The 2011 Annual Reports are now available on-line and staff has them to be distributed to chapters and members after the board meeting and at the annual meeting of the membership.

Endowment Funds and Trust Report

The May 2012 endowment funds report was received by the Board members. Rich Henderson reported that all the endowments are moving forward, a few are a little low but overall they are all positive. Rich also noted that there are outstanding monitoring and defense funding still due to come in and he will be seeking to secure these funds. Staff reported that the June 2012 reports came out this week and they are all still increasing indicating the market continues to grow.

Nick Faessler asked about \$3 of each parsnip predators which the Prairie Bluff Chapter sells, which the chapter had dedicated to go into the operational endowment. Staff will need to check into this with the bookkeeper. Rich Henderson suggested considering putting it into operating budget versus endowment. A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Henry Panowitsch to approve the endowment funds and trust report. The motion carried.

Election of Officers/Board Members

Jack Kussmaul's term as President was technically up since he had served the remainder of Evanne Hunt's term. Jack has offered to serve for a new 2 year term as President. The Vice President position is currently vacant since Bill Hogseth resigned earlier this year. There were not candidates proposed for Vice President. The Secretary has currently been Rich Henderson. He suggested Jeff Ralston for the position, however he is absent from the board meeting. A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Paul Rode for Jack Kussmaul as President and Jeff Ralston as Secretary. The motion carried.

At-Large Members were discussed. The board survey done previously showed the Board's strengths were in land protection and land management with weaknesses being fundraising business, education and marketing. Richard Oberle suggested Eric Preston who has been very active in the Empire Sauk Chapter and has expressed an interest in being involved. Richard believes Eric will make time to serve on the Board even if it is for one year. Evanne Hunt noted that she liked her experience with him and that he has been a major donor. A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Richard Oberle to elect Eric Preston as a Board Member at Large. The motion carried. Rich Henderson emphasized we need to think about and asking members from our chapters to serve on the Board as it does not hurt to ask. There is some information in the database of people's interest which could be looked into.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education & Outreach Committee

Evanne Hunt reported the committee has begun working on its charter projects. One project is enhancing the website which Tom Brock has offered assistance. Another project is putting together a standardized field trip kit which will include a short version and a long version. Evanne reported she has only heard from 2 chapters on trying to schedule a Prairie Day for next year. She asked the chapters to get back to her with recommended dates.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Corporate Resolution to Sell Stock

With the change of staff, there needs to be a new resolution passed by the board. The people needing authority include the Executive Director, President, and Treasurer. A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Paul Rode to approve Chris Kirkpatrick as Executive Director, Jack Kussmaul as President, and Nick Faessler as Treasurer to sell stock. The motion carried.

Approve Bank Signing Authority Resolution

It was explained by staff that there is no formal resolution, however our banks ask for proof the Board approved signing authority for all TPE bank accounts. A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Paul Rode to approve Jack Kussmaul as President, Chris Kirkpatrick

as Executive Director and Nick Faessler as Treasurer for bank signing authority. The motion carried.

Land Protection Committee:

The Land Protection Committee has recommended initial Board approval to pursue the Borah Creek buffer project. The additional acreage to the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter project is familiar to most of the board members. The chapter wanted to get an additional parcel for buffer and expansion of the property. The owners have signed an option to sell non-cropping land which is subject to funding and Board approval. Since there is no checklist currently for buffer projects a summary sheet was presented. The committee voted via email and there was one no vote due to not feeling enough information was presented yet all the rest of the committee voted in favor of the project. Rich Henderson wanted to see the standard write up for land protection projects versus a summary sheet. Since Federal Section 6 funding is involved there could be match to state stewardship funding as match. A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Rich Henderson for initial approval to proceed with the Borah Creek buffer project. The State Stewardship resolution will be put together for Linda, Jack, and Chris to have signing authority.

Administrative Oversight Committee:

Since the hiring of the Executive Director, the employee manual needs to be revised to reflect this change is staffing responsibility. The revised employee manual is recommended for board approval from the Administrative Oversight Committee. A year ago the manual was originally drafted for an Executive Director, yet it was revised for the Business Manager and now it is revised to reflect the staffing change. The main changes were to change authority from Business Manager and Board President to Executive Director. The only other changes were an increase of sick days from 3 to 5, and that exit interviews to be done by the Board President. A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the revised employee manual. The motion carried.

Approval of Capacity Building Grant

Staff would like to apply for a capacity building grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Staff explained that the funder is based in Illinois and thus the application would focus on the Northwest Illinois Chapter, who is supporting the grant application. The focus of the grant would be to increase staff funding to help grow and expand chapter capacity and land protection efforts. The first step is to submit a letter of inquiry, by mid-July and hope to be asked to submit a full application at the end of August. Grant approval would be made in October and the funding would be available starting in 2013. Staff is seeking a \$20,000 grant over the next two years. A motion was made by Mark Leach and seconded by Richard Oberle to approve applying for the grant. The motion carried.

Prairie Festival

The Southwest Grassland and Stream Conservation Area is planning a prairie festival in September near Dodgeville, WI. The event would affect the Southwest Wisconsin, Empire Sauk, and Prairie Bluff Chapters. TPE has been asked to have a booth at the festival and for a \$500 sponsorship of the event. Empire Sauk Chapter has pledged \$200 towards the sponsorship, with Southwest Wisconsin and Prairie Bluff chapters both pledging \$150. The chapters will provide

volunteers to staff the table, etc. Staff will coordinate getting materials from the St. Croix Valley Chapter to have items for sale at the festival.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION TOPIC

The Board discussed the retreat from the previous day on July 14, 2012 which focused on strategic planning. The Board was overall pleased with how the day went and is looking forward to see the draft goals by the end of July. Henry Panowitsch asked if we could have a session at the winter conference for chapter chairs to have their own session to compare problems. The Board agreed this is a good idea yet it must be coordinated and planned to fit into the conference with an agenda and initial survey to garner the questions.

Executive Director Chris Kirkpatrick explained his fundraising ideas with the Board for the year end and into 2013. He has discussed the ideas with several board members, and summarized the ideas to have recognition of the charter group of Legacy Givers, and create a recognition program for people giving at the \$1,000 and above level. This giving level is currently called the Monarch level, and Chris would like to call this the Monarch Society. Another initiative would be to develop a Business Partner Program which will include recognition and benefits for business that support TPE either through donations or in kind services. Chris also explained that the idea of having a donor recognition and fundraiser to coincide with the winter conference. The Board was supportive of the fundraising ideas and looks forward to hearing more about them in the future. Rich Henderson pointed out that in addition to these events and fundraising initiatives that there still needs to be a donor and volunteer recognition event included with the plans for next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Staff distributed copies of the Conflict of Interest Statement which was signed and returned to Chris Kirkpatrick by all the Board members present. It was noted that Jeff Ralston, Chris Kirkpatrick, and Eric Preston still need to sign the statements and staff will follow up on this.

Jack Kussmaul reminded the Board of Future Board Meetings which are scheduled for:

- a. Wednesday, September 19, 2012 7:05 p.m. via conference call
- b. Wednesday, November 14, 2012 7:05 p.m. via conference call

A motion was made by Paul Rode and seconded by Rich Henderson to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by,

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director

NOTE: All Board meetings are open to all TPE members. TPE members are always welcomed and encouraged to participate unless there are issues of a sensitive nature that must be discussed. In these cases the Board will adjourn to closed session.

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Conference Call

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Jack Kussmaul

Roll Call

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Nick Faessler, Rich Henderson, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Henry Panowitsch, Ed Strenski, Richard Oberle, Jeff Ralston, Eric Preston, Jean Clark

Absent: Mark Leach, Alice Mirk

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Victoria Oberle

Jack Kussmaul extended an invitation to the new Board Member, Eric Preston. He gave a background about relocating from the west coast to the Midwest. He has been very involved with the Empire Sauk Chapter and has enjoyed working on TPE properties.

Adopt Meeting Agenda

It was noted that one item will be added as item 11, insurance for Many Rivers Chapter. A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Henry Panowitsch to adopt the meeting agenda with the additional item. The motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried. It was noted that there are over 100 new members already this year.

Treasurer's Report

TPE Treasurer Nick Faessler presented the statement of financial position for August 31, 2012. Chris Kirkpatrick pointed out that Victoria Oberle has recently sent out renewals and as of today there has been a large increase in membership renewals. Evanne Hunt questioned why the expenses has jumped, Rich Henderson pointed out there has been some significant restoration projects and paying off an acquisition loan for projects in the Empire Sauk, and a donation from the Mirk for stewardship. Jim Rogala asked why the 2011 annual fund has increased by \$6,000 which will need to be followed up with the bookkeeper. A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the statement of financial position. The motion carried.

Endowment Funds and Trust Report

The trust reports were not submitted to the Board due to computer problems. The reports were submitted to the trustees. The trustees reported the stock market has gone up and the Mirk donation came into the land management endowment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jim Rogala questioned why in the land protection committee meeting, a land protection buffer criteria was recommended for board approval. Chris Kirkpatrick pointed out there are several

policies that have been recommended for board approval that are being incorporated in the policy manual.

ACTION ITEM: The buffer criteria will need to be brought to the board at its November meeting. Chris Kirkpatrick will look back and bring all policies needing Board approval to the Board at the November 2012 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Briggs-Potter Conservation Easement:

Nick Faessler described the Prairie Bluff Chapter's history of a 3 acre conservation easement the Natural Land Institute holds adjacent to the chapter's Briggs wetland. NLI would like to transfer the 3 acre easement to TPE.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Nick Faessler for initial approval subject to changing the conservation easement language. The motion carried.

Feist Land Acquisition:

Jack Kussmaul described the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter's history to acquire 3 or 4 acres of a remnant they have been managing for several years. Evanne asked if there has been an appraisal done on the property. It was reported that an appraisal has not been done, however Jack Kussmaul will look into if the appraisal is needed.

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Jim Rogala for initial approval of the Feist Acquisition. The motion carried.

Parish Savanna Acquisition:

Rich Henderson described the Empire Sauk Chapter's project to acquire the Parish Savanna. It is adjacent to the Pleasure Valley conservation easement and has been managed for several years by the Wade's and ESC.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded Jean Clark for initial approval and to authorize Rich Henderson to sign the Wisconsin State Stewardship Funding application and the Dane County Conservation Funding application. The motion carried.

Moley Sand Prairie Acquisition:

Rich Henderson described the Empire Sauk Chapter's project to acquire the remnant sand prairie, which is a good quality remnant and a good seed source. It is an isolated project which is surrounded by development yet there is big potential for education and outreach. The chapter is approaching the local community to get input and support for burning. The owner would like to donate a conservation easement however the chapter is talking to the owner for a fee title donation.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Jean Clark for initial approval for either a conservation easement or fee title acquisition and to authorize Rich Henderson to sign for Wisconsin State Stewardship Funding application and Dane County Conservation Funding application. The motion carried.

Lancaster Conservation Easement:

Jack Kussmaul described the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter's project to pursue a donated conservation easement, which they have agreed to be the lead for the project. It is the landowner's intent to try and complete the project by the end of the year.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Jean Clark for initial approval of the project. The motion carried.

Handrick Grassland Acquisition:

Rich Henderson described the Empire Sauk Chapter's project to acquire the property. The WI DNR is pursuing the project yet TPE would like to pursue the project to move quicker than the DNR can.

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded Jim Rogala for initial approval to proceed with the project and to authorize Rich Henderson to sign for the Wisconsin State Stewardship Funding and the Dane County Conservation Funding application.

Accreditation Committee:**Review of Draft Policy and Procedures Manual.**

Evanne Hunt gave an overview that the Accreditation Committee has worked with a professional editor to ensure that we have all our policies and procedures in accordance to the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.

ACTION ITEM: The committee has asked for the Board to review it and have it voted for approval at the November 2012 meeting.

Administrative Oversight Committee:**Treasurer's Handbook Proposed Revisions**

The committee recommended expediting our bill paying process as follows: To give the Executive Director authorization to approve electronically the bills to be paid, and provide the bookkeeper with a stamped signature of the Executive Director to pay the authorized bills. Then the Executive Director reconciles the authorized bills to be paid at the end of each month. The committee recommended the process be included in the Treasurer's Handbook. It did not seem to fit in the Treasurer's Handbook; however the Board would like it included and presented at the November 2012 meeting.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Jim Rogala to authorize the ED to electronic bill payment process as presented.

ACTION ITEM: Chris Kirkpatrick will revise the Treasurer's Handbook and present it at the November 2012 Board meeting.

Fundraising & Endowment Committee:

Richard Oberle summarized the committee's work. The annual appeal will be going forward soon with three types of letters, which is less than last year's. The fundraising and recognition event is proposing to be changed from the winter conference to the fall of 2013. This would give more time to prepare for an event. The legacy giver recognition, business partners, and monarch society are also being worked on by the committee.

Insurance request from Many Rivers:

The insurance for TPE is not high enough for the Many Rivers chapter to proceed with a stewardship grant from the MN DNR. The chapter is asking central to pay for the additional coverage.

A motion was made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Jim Rogala to increase our insurance by \$1 million for the rest of our current premium time period. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Follow up Discussion on Draft Strategic Planning Goals

Chris Kirkpatrick summarized his visits to chapters that the core goals seem to resonate with chapters, especially increasing membership and volunteers, as well as support for the chapters.

In moving the process forward, the Board Development Committee will meet in early October, and staff will check with Sara Wilson to firm up the meeting date.

The Board will have a special meeting on Monday October 22nd at 7:05 p.m. to consider the Strategic Plan Goals.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jack Kussmaul reminded the Board of the Future Board Meeting which is scheduled for:

- a. Wednesday, November 14, 2012 7:05 p.m. via conference call

The committee discussed deciding 2013 annual picnic and 2014 conference chapter hosts.

ACTION ITEM: Evanne Hunt has the list of chapter host history, and can provide it to Chris Kirkpatrick to circulate for discussion at the November Board meeting.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Jean Clark to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by,

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director

NOTE: All Board meetings are open to all TPE members. TPE members are always welcomed and encouraged to participate unless there are issues of a sensitive nature that must be discussed. In these cases the Board will adjourn to closed session.

On Tuesday September 25, 2012 the TPE Board was emailed as detailed below asking for an email vote to authorize Linda Lynch to sign on behalf of TPE to enroll into USDA programs in Grant County. Below is the email followed by the summary of email votes.

From: TPE Executive Director [mailto:executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:07 PM
To: Evanne Hunt; Rich Henderson; jim_rogala@usgs.gov; Jack Kussmaul; Richard J. Oberle; nfaessler@wildblue.net; Henry Panowitsch; jralston@new.rr.com; Richard J. Oberle; Paul Rode; jeananiak@aol.com; Mark Leach; Walter Mirk; Eric Preston
Cc: Linda Lynch
Subject: URGENT! Email board authorization needed!

Good afternoon,

Jack Kussmaul and I have been in touch with Linda Lynch with the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter, who is trying to get their Borah Creek property signed into a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with the USDA. Their chapter has voted on this, and other chapters have been very supportive of them pursuing enrollment. The USDA is asking for a TPE Board Resolution giving Linda Lynch signing authority to enroll property on behalf of TPE for properties in Grant County, WI. They have a short window to get this resolution to the Grant County USDA office by this Thursday September 27th because of application deadlines.

Linda was made aware of this today, so Jack has had his staff draft the attached resolution and we are asking for the Board to vote via email on the attached resolution hopefully by the end of the day tomorrow Wednesday the 26th. If approved Jack can sign the authorization and deliver it to the USDA office.

We certainly appreciate your consideration and support for the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. The CRP contract could mean \$26,000 for land stewardship over the next 10 years. Please email us your vote and we will keep a running tally until we have a majority vote. I will also include this for future Board meeting minutes.

If you have any further questions please call or email either Jack or myself.

Thank you,

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director
The Prairie Enthusiasts
P.O. Box 1148
Madison, WI 53781-1748
Phone: 815-541-3494
ExecutiveDirector@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org
www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

As of September 26, 2012 the following Board members have voted in favor of the motion: Evanne Hunt, Nick Faessler, Richard Oberle, Mark Leach, Jack Kussmaul, Jean Clark, Paul Rode, Eric Preston, and Jim Rogala. The motion passed by a majority vote of 9 Board members.

Minutes submitted by,

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday October 22, 2012
Conference Call

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Jack Kussmaul

Roll Call

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Rich Henderson, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Paul Rode, Jeff Ralston, Eric Preston, Jean Clark, Henry Panowitsch, and Alice Mirk
Absent: Mark Leach, Nick Faessler, and Richard Oberle
Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick

NEW BUSINESS

Recommended approval of the Strategic Plan Goals- ACTION

The board recommended changing the words to only refer to Wisconsin in the Organizational Background. The board did think the goals were written very concise and a clear. Evanne Hunt asked if the final goal regarding the membership should be placed in the organization and leadership section. Jim Rogala thought it fit well in its current location. Rich Henderson suggested changing the title from Finance and Fund Development to Development.

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Rich Henderson to approve the Strategic Plan Goals with the two changes. The motion carried.

The Board discussed the tentative timeline and process to develop Strategies for the Goals. Chris Kirkpatrick presented the background about how the proposed strategy. This entails having the committees champion each of the goals and begin developing implementation strategies through year end and would like to present the final version of the Strategic Plan at the February Board meeting. The structure of working with the committees seems reasonable to the Board. The timeline is progressive however the grant timeline will be delayed until February.

Chris explained the goals and the first goal focusing on support for chapters will be worked on by the Board Development Committee along with a representative from each chapter. The Development Goals will be getting additional assistance by working with David Allen, a fundraising consultant with Development for Conservation. They are focusing on Nov. 17 or 18 in person meeting in Sparta, WI and plans are to invite Board, The Fundraising and Endowment Committee, and the Finance Committee to this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Evanne Hunt reminded the Board to review the Policies and Procedures Manual which will be recommended for Board approval at the November 14, 2012 meeting. Henry Panowitsch asked if a hard copy could be printed and mailed to him. Jean Clark, Alice Mirk, and Paul Rode, also asked for hard copies to be mailed to them. Chris Kirkpatrick will mail hard copies to each of these members

and also check to see if Nick Faessler would like a hard copy. Evanne Hunt advised people that if the board has editorial comments please provide them to her prior to the Board meeting.

Jack Kussmaul reminded everyone the next Board Meeting Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 7:05 p.m. via conference call.

Chris Kirkpatrick reminded the Board that the Annual Appeal letters are being sent out to each of the chapters for them to personalize with a goal of the letters to be in the mail after Tuesday November 6, 2012. Rich Henderson offered to look at the non-member list to see if he knows anyone on there.

A motion was made by Paul Rode and seconded by Jim Rogala to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by,

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director

NOTE: All Board meetings are open to all TPE members. TPE members are always welcomed and encouraged to participate unless there are issues of a sensitive nature that must be discussed. In these cases the Board will adjourn to closed session.

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Conference Call

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Jack Kussmaul

Roll Call

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Nick Faessler, Rich Henderson, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Paul Rode, Richard Oberle, Jeff Ralston, Eric Preston, Jean Clark, Alice Mirk

Absent: Mark Leach, Linda Lynch, Henry Panowitsch

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Victoria Oberle

Adopt Meeting Agenda

There was no objection to the agenda as proposed.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Alice Mirk and seconded by Jim Rogala to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

TPE Treasurer Nick Faessler discussed the central's checking and savings account balance. The annual budget had not come in due to it just being mailed out. Remembrance Day did not do well this past year. Other revenue has to do with lower interest rates, but the sales items have been doing well though. The audit is \$500 over which is a slight increase from past audits. The insurance cost was up, due to the additional insurance for the Many Rivers Chapter stewardship grant. Evanne Hunt was asking about how we are actually doing minus grant income and restricted. Chris reported that the projected short fall is approximately \$15,000 however the annual appeal is still due to come in.

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Paul Rode to approve the statement of financial position. The motion carried.

Endowment Funds and Trust Report

Rich Henderson reported that as of the end of the September the funds are looking good. Evanne inquired about the new report method that Jon Traver has used for the summary report, and if it will be used in the future. Chris Kirkpatrick clarified that this will be used for future reports.

A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Richard Oberle to approve the endowment funds and trust report. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were not comments or questions about the meeting minutes provided in background materials.

NEW BUSINESS

Amending Conservation Easement Policy:

The policy has been recommended by the Land Protection Committee. Chris Kirkpatrick pointed out that this policy was used by an accredited land trust as an example even if it was drafted a year ago. Evanne Hunt liked that we will be consulting legal counsel as part of the process.

A motion was made by Alice Mirk and seconded by Jeff Ralston for initial approval of the Amending Conservation Easement Policy. The motion carried.

Buffer Criteria:

The buffer criteria were recommended by the Land Protection Committee in August 2012. Evanne Hunt wondered if an excel spreadsheet would be a good addition to conform to other criteria.

A motion was made by Richard Oberle and seconded by Evanne Hunt to approve the criteria and to include a spreadsheet. The motion carried.

Accreditation Committee:

Policies and Procedures Manual.

Evanne Hunt presented that the committee would like approval of the manual. It will change and need updating over time. Jim Rogala asked if any of our existing policies that were changed in putting this together. Evanne Hunt explained that there might have been some grammatical edits in compiling the manual. Jim Rogala asked if the website will need updated to only have the manual and take off the existing policies. Evanne Hunt would like to have the website updated to have it be found easier on the website. Evanne Hunt explained that whenever a new policy is added or policies are revised, the manual will be updated. Chris Kirkpatrick pointed out that the two policies approved this evening will be included and updated if approved tonight.

A motion was made by Jim Rogala and seconded by Alice Mirk to approve the Policies and Procedures Manual. The motion carried.

Administrative Oversight Committee:

Treasurer's Handbook Proposed Revisions

Chris Kirkpatrick reported that the board approved the process at the September Board meeting yet wanted the change of process to be included in the Treasurer's Handbook. There was one change made to the added section to say, "... electronically approve bills to be paid..."

A motion was made by Evanne Hunt and seconded by Alice Mirk to approve the Treasurer's Handbook as revised. The motion carried.

Wade Donation & Part-Time Employee:

Jack Kussmaul summarized that Mr. Wade would like to make a donation to TPE to hire a temporary employee to work on his property that TPE holds a conservation easement on. The question is if there would be any perceived conflict of interest. Chris Kirkpatrick pointed out that Gathering Waters suggested that we review our definition of an outsider in our conflict of interest policy, and he feels Mr. Wade would not be an outsider. Rich Henderson pointed out that

he has been working with Mr. Wade to define what the work would entail and to ensure that the work will implement the land management plan approved in the conservation easement. Evanne Hunt agrees that Mr. Wade is not an insider, however she wondered if he is involved in the chapter leadership. Rich Henderson pointed out that Mr. Wade is not involved in the chapter leadership. Jeff Ralston asked if he would have input about who will be hired, Rich pointed out that the chapter will make the hiring decision. Rich Henderson pointed out that Mr. Wade will be involved in guiding management that will be done which is approved by the chapter to be conducted.

A motion was made by Nick Faessler and seconded by Richard Oberle to approve the proposal to work with Mr. Wade on a donation to hire a part time employee to implement the land management plan of TPE's management plan. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Follow up Discussion on Strategic Planning Goals Development via Committees

Chris Kirkpatrick summarized the work of the committees, including Board Development having a meeting last night. Accreditation Committee has drafted its goals. The rest of the committees have meetings coming up through the rest of November or in December. The goal will be to have the final draft of the strategic plan developed by the end of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board scheduled the 2013 Board Meetings as follows:

January 15, 2013 via conference call

March 17, 2013 in Mankato, MN following the winter conference

May 21, 2013 via conference call

July 2013 at the picnic and annual meeting of the membership, location to be determined

September 17, 2013 via conference call

November 19, 2013 via conference call

2013 Annual Picnic

There was discussion about the annual picnic. Evanne Hunt will check to see if the St. Croix Valley Chapter would be willing to host the picnic. Rich Henderson suggested looking at the list to see what chapter would be next. We would ask the next chapter and continue to move onto the next one until.

2014 Conference chapter host

Rich Henderson looked at the list provided, and the Northwest Illinois Chapter has not hosted for 12 years, then Prairie Smoke did it 8 years ago. Prairie Sands and Glacial Prairie have not hosted yet. After Northwest Illinois and Prairie Smoke it would probably be Coulee Region and Empire Sauk. Paul Rode is willing to take the idea to Northwest Illinois at their next meeting. Evanne suggested that Central could host the meeting in the Glacial Prairie Chapter area. The Board decided to hear if Northwest Illinois would host the conference and if needed it can be revisited at the January meeting.

A motion was made by Alice Mirk and seconded by Paul Rode to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by,

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director

NOTE: All Board meetings are open to all TPE members. TPE members are always welcomed and encouraged to participate unless there are issues of a sensitive nature that must be discussed. In these cases the Board will adjourn to closed session.

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.
Summary of Board Action
Vote By Email
Monday, December 3, 2012

The Prairie Enthusiasts Board of Directors voted by email for final approval of the Management Plan for the West Dane Conservancy.

The management plan was reviewed by the Land Management Committee at its November 27, 2012 meeting and recommended it for Board approval. The owners need to have the management plan approved in order for it to be signed by Friday December 14, 2012.

The Board vote was by email response as recorded below:

Jim Rogala – yes
Richard Henderson – yes
Nick Faessler – yes
Jeff Ralston – yes
Richard Oberle – yes
Henry Panowitsch – yes
Paul Rode – yes
Jack Kussmaul – yes
Alice Mirk - yes
Evanne Hunt – yes
Jean Clark – yes
Eric Preston – yes
Linda Lynch – yes
Mark Leach – yes

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director