

## BOARD MEETING - Minutes

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 – 7:00-9:00pm

**Present:** Debra Behrens Jonathan Rigden, Harvey Halvorsen, Kevin Obrien, Jim Rogala, Scott Fulton, Jessica Bizub, Evanne Hunt, Jay Rutherford, Deanna Pomije, Katie Hahn, Rob Schuettelpelz, Jerry Newman, David Hamel, Scott Fulton, Rich Henderson

**Absent:** Stephen Winter, Alice Mirk

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - a. 7:06 pm by Jim Rogala
  - b. Introduce Nate Lee – absent due to illness

#### 2. Adopt Meeting Agenda

a. At this point the board should indicate if they wish any items listed under the consent agenda moved for further discussion

Jim – minor changes – move Batson project to last project

Jim – conference – the items that Rich wants to discuss with regard to future conferences will be moved to Education meeting.

Jim- Batson misspelled in Nov Land Protection Minutes.

Evanne – Land Protection minutes score to acquire a property Nov 70, Sept 75 (was this the difference between fee title and easements? Or Expansion buffer vs. acquisition) Batson would be 75

Jonathan – last minutes stated that the new website would be up and running by Nov. (Tabled, will discuss the ED report later on the agenda). Also, the newest prairie promoter not on website yet.

Jonathan – fundraising and endowment minutes – phone calls CS will do if chapters cannot – will discuss more in ED report later in this agenda.

Evanne made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda with the noted corrections. Jerry seconded. Motion carried.

#### 2. Approve Consent Agenda – ACTION

- a. Evanne made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jon seconded. Motion carried.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report – Alice Mirk

- a. Rob S presented the YTD Financial reports through Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2022

- b. Scott started a discussion on the variable allocation vs. deficit. As of Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, and estimate for year end, the allocation for the year would likely have to go from 75% to approx. 85% to remove the deficit.
  - c. Scott motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Rich seconded. Motion carried.
- 4. President's Report – Jim Rogala
  - a. Future board meetings will likely be more intense/aggressive due to our 3-year plan commitment.
- 5. Executive Director's Report – Debra Behrens
  - a. There was a discussion on the new Chapter Support staff structure.
  - b. Website discussion regarding the TPE new website. We are getting pro-bono, but not fast support for the website. Therefore, it is not ready yet.
  - c. Year-end lapsed member phone calls: The F&E committee has a plan for lists to be sent to chapters to review and advise who should be called for year end to encourage them to renew their membership. Chapters making such calls to invite lapsed donors to donate to renew their membership is the best way to build relationships with these lapsed members. However, we do recognize that not all chapters have the bandwidth to make these calls, so chapters can advise chapter support that they need help with this. There is still confusion with members regarding donations vs. memberships. Any donation renews your membership. Chapter Support will for certain be called the \$1000 and above major donors. Debra will be making those calls; but will coordinate with the chapters first before she makes those calls. Chapters should concentrate on the less than \$1K lapsed donors.
    - i. Jon suggested that chapters would need some coaching on how to make these lapsed donor calls. Such as a script or other guidance. Debra suggests you just need to be your authentic self to thank donors.
  - d. Katie suggests we should give board members access to TPE's BLM database so that CS doesn't have to share reports to the BOD. Debra advised that BLM does not offer this based on the expense for additional users/access to BLM, but we can set up auto-generated reports. Debra acknowledged that we need to develop new reports that meet the needs of the chapters.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 7. Land Protection Committee

#### a. Project Proposals

##### The Karow Property/Allen Creek Fen

- a. Dale's son reached out to Alice and advised he's been having some cognitive challenges. Now Dale's son is considering building a home on this property and then potentially donating the property to TPE.

- b. Rich suggests we still make a motion to move forward with this project to apply for state funding.
- c. Per Jon, Pg 11 easement section states that it prohibits burning – per Rich, this is about altering the habitat by burning. Therefore, there seems to be a misunderstanding of this section/clause that we'll need to review/investigate. Rich states that WRP easements are being burned.

Evanne moves that we authorize the preliminary project proposal, including the authorization for TPE to apply for stewardship funding. Scott seconds. Motion carried.

## 2. Agaski Property

- a. Some discussion.

Scott moves that we authorize the preliminary project proposal, including the authorization for TPE to apply for stewardship funding. Deanna seconds. Motion carried.

## 3. Uren Trust Addition to Erbe Grassland

- a. Some discussion.

Jon moves that we authorize the preliminary project proposal, including the authorization for TPE to apply for stewardship funding for both Dane county and state funding. Jay seconds. Motion carried.

## 4. Giordano Sand Barrens

- a. Some discussion. Owner wants to donate this land.

Scott moves that we authorize the preliminary project proposal, including the authorization for TPE to apply for state stewardship funding. Jessica seconds. Motion carried.

## 5. Marowski Bluff Prairie

- a. Some discussion.

Evanne moves that we authorize the preliminary project proposal, including the authorization for TPE to apply for state stewardship funding. Harvey seconds. Motion carried.

## 6. Batson Easement

- a. Some discussion. Owner wants to donate the easement. We would mainly be consulting and advising the landowner. Even though it rated a below our minimum score, this land has conservation value. And the landowner is putting a lot of effort into this property and is willing to fund the admin expenses. It was also discussed that we have to have

the skillset on our staff to support landowner services to support properties like this where we'd mainly be in a consultant role. Also asked is where would the access to the easement be in case the road access property is sold.

Jon moves that we authorize the preliminary project proposal. Jerry seconds. Evanne & Deanna are opposed. Motion carried.

e. Motion to expand criteria for donor-funded protection projects

Evanne moves that the Land Protection Committee explore changing the criteria for donor funded projects. Jay seconded. Motion carried.

8. Strategy Planning

a. 3-year picture – discussion and action

Debra walked the Board through the document provided in the meeting packet.

Board feedback:

- suggestion that on page 2, point #10 should not say specifically 9 FTE's, but rather staffed to meet these goals. A. The permission to hire would come through the budgeting process. Final: Debra will update this one per the suggestion.
- question on page 2, point 6, how do we measure this A. This will come as part of the 1-year plans.
- question on page 2, # volunteers, what will we measure this from since we don't have statistics on this now. A. This will come as part of the 1-year plans.
- Suggestion on page 6: #1 should say that members feel "more" connected, etc. So that it doesn't sound like we are not doing these things now.

Will wait for approval until changes made.

f. 1-year plan – discussion and action (including org chart)

i. Tabled for this meeting, will be coming later

9. 2023 Budget Discussion

Rob presented and entertained questions.

Q. Variable income allocation rate started at 70%, then went to 75%, now assuming 80% in 2023. But 2022 is projected to be 85%. The chapters are getting less and less as the years go on. This was not the desired goal.

A. We are on a growth trend. This is a long-term investment to grow the CS staff.

Q. Anticipating one land acquisition, but we just discussed 6 of them tonight.

A. They take a long time, so is reasonable that we'd only acquire one in 2023. This is conservative. Acquiring more would be favorable to the budget.

Q. Highlights: The conference revenue split is not how we've done it in the past, regarding the Sponsorships.

A. The finance committee should take this up since we are doing sponsorships differently than we have in the past.

Jay moved to approve the 2023 budget as presented. Deanna seconded. Motion carried.

#### 10. 2023 Conference Update

a. Stephen Winter to provide update

Will be emailed in lieu of Stephen not being present this evening.

b. Rich Henderson would like to add a discussion on the conference committee and some suggestions.

#### 11. Resolutions

x

a. To Open Bank Account

a. Harvey moved. Evanne seconded. Motion carried.

b. To Open Credit Card

a. Evanne moved. Harvey seconded. Motion carried

#### 12. Adjourn 9:45 pm