

## St. Croix Valley Chapter

June 25, 2024 6pm—8pm

Present: Doreen, Bill, Mike, Harvey, Wayne, Dick, Ginny, Evanne

## Agenda

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### Parking lot at Alexander oak savanna

We reviewed two quotes for a gravel parking lot, boulders, and two locking gates for the south end next to the agriculture field.

- Rohl Construction for \$8,434.00
- D Benson Trucking & Excavating for \$8,325.06

We selected the D Benson quote. We would also like the entrance (turn-in by the fire number sign) widened.

**Action Item:** Evanne will work with Marti Piepgras (chapter treasurer) to get the deposit (\$1,248.76) paid as soon as possible.

**Action Item:** Evanne will contact the Township to determine whether we need a permit for the work.

**Action Item:** Wayne will contact Benson and verify the quote includes two gates.

### Grant applications

Should we apply for a grant for these potential improvements (Ginny will lead discussion):

- a. Graded and gravel drive and parking lot, with boulder liners – no grant
- b. Kiosk (with QR code for interpretation) – will pursue a grant
- c. U-posts/signs for corners– will pursue a grant
- d. Signs– will pursue a grant
- e. Trails (steps down one slope?) – Do we want to maintain – no grant; we decided a mowed "footpath" was appropriate and Bill volunteered to mow a path (just a one-time mowing). Ginny sent a link to steps put in by the county near Bass Lake. When Ginny worked, we had a contractor put in a set like these and they blended in nicely once vegetation re-established along the edge (our contractor used traprock instead of gravel).  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ycPQmqyMpDwmHGRb/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- f. Shed or shipping container to store equipment – no grant
- g. A surveyor to survey the south line – tabled
- h. Contractor to remove stumps on south part – tabled
- i. Prep and plant south part (6 acres?) – no grant

**Action Item:** Evanne will send the picture of a potential kiosk design to everyone.

**Action Item:** Evanne will send to Harvey the survey done when we took possession.

### Trails at Alexander

We discussed adding a maintained trail and steps at Alexander. We decided not to do so. We understand the concerns but adding access will be detrimental to the site's status as a natural

area. Well maintained walking trails are a feature more for parks and nature centers than old growth oak savanna.

### **Charging for prescribed burns**

We discussed making changes to the burn on private land program.

**Action Item:** Evanne will update the process document and send out for review.

### **Authorized use of TPE UTV discussion.**

We discussed requests for loaned equipment (drip torches, UTV, etc.). The maintenance costs would increase and there is the question of liability if our equipment failed. We decided no to lending any equipment.

### **Equipment Replacement and Purchases**

We decided to buy helmets with visors for volunteers.

**Action Item:** Evanne and Harvey will work on ordering from the DNR supply house.

## **New Business**

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Discussed at length using herbicide on the crown vetch at Alexander savanna. The patch between the highway and the road up to the quarry is growing. No decision was made.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Insect Day at Prairie Haven – June 29  
([https://theprairieenthusiasts.org/events/summer\\_event\\_north/](https://theprairieenthusiasts.org/events/summer_event_north/))
- Tour for River Falls city officials of the Kinni work – July 17
- Tour for MnDOT of Blueberry Hill – July 22
- Tour of Higgins fen by Dan Carter – July 31

**Action Item:** Evanne will email chapter to find volunteers for a chapter picnic.

**Action Item:** Evanne will send “shaming” email to list to highlight stolen lupine seeds from Blueberry Hill.

**Action Item:** Doreen will notify Evanne about the next Bison at Belwin event so we can have a booth.