

St. Croix Valley Chapter

October 2, 2024 6pm—8pm

Location: Hudson Library and Zoom

Agenda

TPE Board recap

Evanne reported actions by the TPE Board at the last meeting (Sept 17)”

- The board approved giving a \$65K bequest (gift via a will) to the Empire Sauk chapter. The woman was the mother of the ES member, but she did not specify how the money should be used.
- The board also approved maintaining the 80% allocation rate for the just completed 15-month 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- The board approved three management plans for new acquisitions.
- The ED reported that TPE was awarded the full \$394,300 requested for our Uren Addition to Erbe Grasslands.
- The ED also reported we have raised a total of \$31,635 from new and increased unrestricted gifts by 100% participation from Board members. This sends an important message to our community about how you want to grow.
- A work plan for the AmeriCorp program is complete. Phase 2 is training and a schedule for the volunteers.
- And the ED also reported that progress has been made on the formation of a Twin Cities chapter.

Nominations for chapter representative to TPE Board

Evanne has been on the TPE Board of Directors since 2006. She nominated Peter Fritz to the position. Unanimous approval by those present.

TPE Land Management recap

Alex B reported on the latest actions by the TPE committee.

- Management plan policy language was updated as required by our Land Trust Alliance accreditation.
- The chapter will need to eventually update our management plans; no schedule yet.
- Committee discussed issues with the language in the landowner agreement. Some entities, mainly municipalities and universities, didn't want to sign the landowner agreement and some sited state statutes. TPE will handle these case by case.
- E-SC has drafted some policies for the following items and Rich is sharing it for consideration to adopt as a TPE policy. Jim suggests that we handle these as procedures instead of policy.
 - Use of Trail Cameras on TPE Land
 - Use of TPE Land
 - Research on TPE Land
 - Herbicide Safety G

TPE Land Protection recap

Harvey H is our chapter representative to the committee. In his absence, Evanne reported on the latest actions.

- Working on encroachments on TPE easements.
- Several offers to swap land that borders an easement with land already in the easement, and a new easement project. These easement encroachments reinforce the necessity to install boundary markers at Alexander. Adjoining neighbors need to know where the property lines are.
- Now is also a good time to mention the TPE Legal Defense Fund required by our Land Trust Alliance accreditation. It is there to help us with any legal actions by landowners.

Chapter treasurer report

Marti is on vacation. No report.

New Business

Grant application progress

Ginny Gaynor is our liaison with Chapter Support grant admin. She won't be able to put any time into grants until after the November workshop. She wanted me to report that we did receive the \$2000 St. Croix Valley Foundation grant for the workshop that she applied for.

Back in March of this year, we brainstormed a list of potential projects. Several items are up for discussion.

- Ginny recommends we hold off on any grants for Alexander savanna until we have an updated management plan. Discussed:
 - Parking lot – Wayne reported it should be completed next week. Cost: \$8,300.
 - Kiosk – Evanne distributed possibilities. Wayne likes this one; cost \$1,551: https://displays4sale.com/products/eco-design-20x28-outdoor-freestanding-mid-range-information-message-boards-single-sided-portrait?variant=32154026344537&st-t=adwords&vt-k=&vt-mt=&vt-ap=&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwgf3BhBeEiwAFxrG3exeTSni0oT2WccbHkLf_W6e8ZX-M-Z3pQ7piAYvBpMYS96P80ADhoCpxwQAvD_BwE
 - Walking trails – no major trails will be added. Narrow walking paths will be maintained.
 - U-posts/posts for corners – Group suggested Harvey had some.
 - Survey of south line – Group decided we want this done; this is a priority.
 - Contractor to remove stumps on south part – no action.
- Bat monitoring equipment – Discussion ensued. Evanne wants the equipment and the survey done.
- Funding to offset costs of chainsaw training and herbicide training – Discussion ensued. Cost is a factor, but training is desired.

Chapter land management activity

- Fire break maintenance – scheduled, announced, on website for October 19 & 26.
- Work party schedule on website.
- Prescribed burns needed and desired at Foster and Alexander but not before a killing frost. We also have a long list of private landowners who requested a burn.

Chapter outreach events –

- KRLT Nature Night
- Research Rendezvous
- MnDOT tour of Blueberry Hill
- “How to Plant a Prairie” workshop

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.