



The Prairie Enthusiasts- SW WI Chapter Board Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2024.

Board members - X indicates “present”, O indicates “absent”

X	Jack Kussmaul	X	Gary Eldred	X	Steve Querin-Schultz
X	Gary Adams	X	Becky Fernette	X	Roger Smith
X	Bob Costanza	X	Shaun Murphy-Lopez	X	Kay Wienke
X	Lynnette Dornak	X	Debbie Pavick		

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chapter President Jack Kussmaul over Zoom.

Minutes of the November 6, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Becky requested an amendment to the minutes to indicate that the Board voted to approve Kay’s appointment to represent the chapter on the TPE Board. Amendment approved. Motion to accept the minutes by Steve. Seconded by Roger. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s report: Steve reviewed the balances in our accounts. Jack clarified the sources of the endowments. Question re: the source of the Land Acquisition funds - Jack will follow up with Chapter Support. Bob made the motion to accept the budget. Shaun seconded. Motion carried.

TPE Chapter Representative Report: Kay shared that no students have registered for the Annual Conference. Jack will follow up with James Haas next week. Kay will provide Board members with conference flyers via email. Discussion re: working with Darcy Kind, DNR representative for assistance and/or funding on Chapter State Natural Areas. Bob added that they have funds to work on properties adjacent to State Natural Areas. Bob will follow up to see if we can get funding for work at Borah Creek. Gary Eldred added that Chapter Support is working toward developing goals to improve assistance to the Chapters, and in particular, to support land management efforts.

Update on Sites: Jack reported on Eldred Prairie with significant progress in eradicating oak grubs. James Haas offered assistance with a possible burn this spring. No other updates.

Committee updates:

- a. Events: Debbie reported on four upcoming events: Level 1 chainsaw workshop with Luke Saunders, Blue Heron Stewardship. Gary Eldred offered to be available to open up the barn and make recommendations for trees to be cut by workshop participants. Martha is working on setting up a butterfly workshop led by chapter member, Donna Richter. Lynnette contacted Iowa Co. property owners for a late spring tour with an accompanying tour of Sylvan Rd. Will discuss the date and time for the annual meeting later in the agenda. The committee will meet soon to firm up dates. Becky reminded the

Board about the Holiday party at Castle Rock Inn on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. Kay mentioned the addition of Whiteside County, IL to the NW Illinois Chapter and expressed interest in organizing a tour to two properties there.

- b. Barn: Update deferred to budget discussion.
- c. Land Management: Jack reported on the outreach to site stewards to schedule work parties and needed funds. Gary Eldred raised a question re: purchase of tractor with mower. Steve will investigate further. Kay reminded the Board that Duncan Schultz with Chapter Support assists with grants. Kay also suggested purchasing a trailer. Steve will coordinate with Duncan.
- d. Scholarship: Meeting to be scheduled to discuss scholarships in near future.

Budget requests: Jack referred Board members to the budget requests that he provided to Board members. After discussion about the how to proceed, the items were addressed as follows:

Borah Creek Barn: Roger made the motion to approve the budgets for the barn repairs and Borah Creek Prairie. Steve seconded. Discussion about the need for the barn repairs. Steve requested that Roger amend his motion to separate the barn budget from the Borah Creek budget. Roger amended his motion to approve the budget request of \$11,100 for Borah Creek Barn repairs and other expenses. Steve seconded. Motion carried with 9 votes for, 1 vote against.

Borah Creek Prairie: Roger made the motion to approve the budget request with the removal of the \$10K set aside for purchase of a tractor and mower, given that the equipment will be used on other properties. Becky seconded. Motion carried.

Tractor & mower: Becky made the motion to create a new line item in the budget to reflect the \$10K to be set aside for the purchase of the tractor and mower, and to approve the \$10K request. Shaun seconded. Motion carried.

Other budget requests: Debbie made the motion for the Board to approve all additional budget requests (Double Oak, Eldred, Iris Drive, & Sylvan Road). Lynnette seconded. Motion carried.

Future meeting dates: January, March, & November by Zoom on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Motion by Steve, Lynnette seconded. Motion carried. May, July, & September in-person meetings - 2nd Saturday of the month at 2 p.m. Motion by Shaun, Debbie seconded. Motion carried.

Other business: Reminder to site stewards to propose work parties for the upcoming year. Motion by Bob to approve the Events Committee's budget request for \$100, Becky seconded. Motion carried. Reminder about the Holiday Party on Saturday, January 27 at 5 p.m. Debbie stated that the Events Committee would talk about getting information out to members more frequently.

Adjournment: Steve made the motion to adjourn at approximately 8:30 p.m. Lynnette seconded.
Motion carried.

Submitted by Becky Fernette, Secretary – January 24, 2024