



Meeting date & location: March 20, 2024 on Zoom

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		

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chapter President Jack Kussmaul
2. Roll call - see above
3. Minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes by Steve. Seconded by Gary E. Motion carried.
4. Treasurer’s report: See attachment. Motion to accept the treasurer’s report made by Roger. Seconded by Lynnette. Discussion about information Board members would like to see included in the treasurer’s report. Steve agreed to include expenses in future reports.
5. Report from Chapter Representative to Chapter Support Board - see attachment. Jack added that there will be an intern funded by the Thomson family - they will focus on Empire-Sauk sites, but may be available to assist with our sites.
6. Site Updates:
 - Iris Drive (Gary E.) - removing honeysuckle, gooseberry, other shrubs, walnut trees. Brush mowing. Improved fire breaks. Bob R. completed burn plan and is awaiting Dan Wallace’s approval.
 - Bush Clover (Gary E.) - mowed twice, fire breaks cleared. Burn plan has been approved.
 - Borah Creek (Steve) - Cutting plums and brush. Fire breaks have been mowed. Burn plan pending. Steve suggested coordinating a burn with Bush Clover, if possible to maximize burn crew’s availability.
 - Double Oak (Jack) burned last week
 - Eldred (Jack) - James Haas is organizing a work day for Saturday, March 30 to allow students who recently earned their chainsaw certification to practice their skills cutting brush and small trees. Will start at 10:30 a.m. *(Note: The minutes here are accurate but date has been moved to April 6.)*
 - Feist (Becky) - work day scheduled for Monday, April 8 from 4-7 p.m. to remove and treat small invasives (raspberry, prickly ash).

Thomas Wet - No update

Sime Bald (Jack) - Two work parties held to remove honeysuckle, other invasive shrubs

Sylvan Road (Jack) - burn plan in progress. Had planned to use Hollandale Fire Department to burn, but did not meet burn policy criteria.

Lynnette added that UW-Platteville has 20 students that recently earned their S180/S190 fire certifications who might be available to assist with burns. Contact her for more information.

7. Committee Updates

- a. Events: Debbie reported that 3 events are being planned: 1) Chainsaw training in June with Luke Saunders, 2) Site visit near Gov. Dodge State Park/Sylvan Road, and 3) Butterfly workshop. Because of the early spring, Lynnette wondered if the site visit could happen in April or be postponed until next year given that the landowners want to showcase their spring ephemerals.
- b. Barn: Becky reported that the soffits and fascia have been completed. Gutters may have been installed this week. Steve commented that we may need to rent a dumpster for scrap materials. Becky to reach out to the contractor re: the plan to clean up the work site. James Haas looked at the barn floors earlier this year. His recommendation is that the floors not be sanded, but be thoroughly cleaned with a protective coating applied. He agreed to prepare an estimate for the job along with the rationale for not sanding the floors. Upon receipt, a meeting of the committee will be scheduled. Gary E. requested that future contractors not park in areas that have been seeded.
- c. Land Management: No meeting. Gary E. is in preliminary discussions with a landowner located near Bush Clover about possible acquisition of two parcels of approximately 13-15 acres total. Should the landowner decide to move forward with the sale, the Board will be invited to make a site visit.
- d. Scholarship: Debbie reported that the committee is down to two members. Lynnette volunteered to join the committee. Two applications have been received. Scholarship announcements have been placed in local papers, sent to local colleges/universities, and posted on the Chapter Facebook page.

8. Possible intern and AmeriCorps workers: Discussed earlier in meeting.

9. Planned site visits by Dan Carter - see attachment. If interested in attending any of the site visits, contact Dan ahead of time.

10. Other business:

By-laws: Jack requested feedback on the revised by-laws that were made available to members prior to the meeting. Debbie reviewed the two major changes - adding the VP position and expanding the maximum number of board members. Motion to approve the revised by-laws made by Steve, seconded by Gary E. Motion carried.

Representative for Conference Advisory Committee: Chapter Support has requested a representative from each chapter to serve on the advisory committee for the annual conference. Lynnette volunteered. Discussion about preferences for virtual vs. in-person vs. hybrid conference. Kay shared that this year's virtual conference raised \$25K for the organization whereas the in-person conference broke even.

Request for purchase of weather monitoring device: Dan Wallace will serve as Burn Boss on two Chapter sites this year. He requested that the Chapter provide a weather monitoring device for \$200. Motion to approve the request made by Lynnette, seconded by Debbie. Lynnette has a device that Chapter burn crews can use, also.

Student presentations May 9: Lynnette shared that her students have been working on a GIS mapping project of Chapter prairie sites. She will send out an invitation to Board members to attend the student presentations on May 9.

Tractor update: Steve updated the Board re: purchase of a tractor (\$30-40K) and mower (\$7K). He is working with Duncan at Chapter Support to secure funding.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. following a motion from Steve, seconded by Debbie.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Fernette, Chapter Secretary
March 20, 2024.