



Meeting date & location: May 11, 2024 at Borah Creek Barn

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

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

1. Meeting called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Chapter President Jack Kussmaul
2. Roll call - see above. Also in attendance: Bob Retko
3. Minutes of the March 20, 2024 meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes by Bob C. Seconded by Steve. Motion carried.
4. Treasurer’s report: Limited report due to Chapter Support’s transition to a new budget calendar.
 Unrestricted balance as of March 31, 2024: \$79,822.01.
 Restricted accounts: \$10, 599.54.
 Discussion re: what Board wants to see included in the report – bimonthly comparisons of revenues/expenses, changes in specific endowments.
5. Chapter Support Board Representative report: No report due to no Chapter Support Board meeting since our last meeting. Representatives pledged matching contributions. Discussion re: Debbie’s question about how donations are distributed between Chapter Support and individual chapters.
6. Updates from Site Stewards
 - Borah Creek (Steve): Prepped for burns. Prescribed burn near the barn in April. Gary E. has been spot-spraying. Steve mowed an area on the south end to encourage prairie bush clover. Plan to continue mowing some acres to encourage eastern meadowlarks. Survey was completed by Austin (hired by property owners) and the chapter lost a few acres. Landowner may want to build a house on that land. Mallard nesting in the pond. Appears that more red-winged blackbirds are on the property. Lots of birds on the property.
 - Bush Clover (Gary E.): Gary E. described some of the challenges associated with surrounding properties. Gary received notice that reclamation plan is in place to re-open the sandstone quarry south of the property. Land protection committee (CS) to follow-up.

- Double Oak: (Jack): Prescribed burn of 100 acres this spring. DNR granted permission to use access roads.
- Eldred (Jack): Two work parties scheduled to treat crown vetch. Two work parties scheduled with the guests of Prairie du Chien Correctional Institutions. Work party with UW-P students was canceled.
- Feist (Becky) - 2 work parties this spring - next one scheduled for June 3 4-7 p.m. Good turnout at 2nd party - 3 students from UW-P cut down some walnut trees. Removed honeysuckle, raspberry, prickly ash & pulled garlic mustard. Board supported reaching out to local loggers to see if walnuts trees can be sold to benefit the chapter.
- Iris Drive: (Bob R.): Fire breaks prepared prior to burn. April 4 burn on west unit. Bob has been cutting multiflora rose, honeysuckle, raspberries on Monday mornings. Treated stumps with herbicide. Met with Dan G., DNR wildlife manager on May 9 – he shared a sign that the DNR uses to clarify boundaries. Bob gave a copy to Chapter Support to consider developing a similar sign for TPE properties. Bob also shared a brochure from the Wisconsin Coverts Project about a training for woodland wildlife management.
- Sime Bald (Bob C.): Work party this spring to lop and treat honeysuckle, etc.
- Sylvan Road (Gary E.): Members of Chapter Support visited the property this spring.
- Thomas Wet (Jack): Half was burned on Monday, May 6 to control reed canary grass.

7. Committee Updates:

- a. Events – Debbie: Level 1 chainsaw class on June 15. 3 registrants. Can accommodate 12. Chapter support created a registration link; however, if we don't get enough registrants, the chapter will "eat" the costs. No update on butterfly workshop. Successful site visit in April at Iowa Co. property with approximately 12 attendees.
 - b. Barn – Becky: Shaun working on east windows, Roger to add outlets. Floor cleaning work party before chainsaw class - Maybe first weekend in June.
 - c. Scholarship – Debbie: 10 applicants. 2 recipients chosen.
 - d. Land Management – Jack: No meetings have been held.
8. Grassland birds-related grant: \$10K grant to create habitat for grassland birds. Hire forestry mowing at Borah Creek. Steve will get estimates and coordinate with Duncan at Chapter Support.
 9. Portable toilet at Borah Creek: Jack ordered it for 2024. In future, Barn committee will be responsible for the portable toilet.
 10. Work to be done by Bob Costanza on chapter sites. See attachment.
 11. Planned site visits by Dan Carter – see attached list. Eldred Prairie visit on May 31. Discussed management of invasive bracken ferns.

12. Other business: Gary E. requested that we re-introduce beetles to manage knapweed at Borah Creek. Site stewards to follow up.

Kay reported on Lynnette's UW-P student presentations on SW Chapter sites. Lynnette will provide access to these presentations to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m. following a motion from Steve, seconded by Roger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Fernette, Chapter Secretary

May 12, 2024