



## The Prairie Enthusiasts - Southwest Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & location: **September 14, 2024** at Borah Creek Barn, Fennimore WI

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

X	Jack Kussmaul	X	Gary Eldred	O	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 2:26 p.m. by Chapter President Jack Kussmaul

Minutes of the July 13, 2024 meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes made by Roger, seconded by Lynnette. Motion carried.

Election of officers: Current officers agreed to continue to serve in their role for the next year. Bob has agreed to serve as VP. Jack informed the board that he is committed to serve another 3 years at most, and stresses the need to identify a successor. Jack is willing to “train” the President-elect. Motion to approve the slate of officers made by Roger, seconded by Lynnette. Motion carried.

Coordination with Folklore Village (FV): Dan Wallace presented a proposed cooperative agreement between FV and TPE. Allowing FV to be covered by TPE’s insurance was the catalyst for this agreement. Discussed SW chapter’s role in this agreement. Questions re: insurance coverage of an outside entity. Dan will present this proposal to the FV Board and Chapter Support. No decisions needed to be made.

Approval of committees/members: Board decided that this action was unnecessary.

Financial reports: Reviewed during annual meeting. No further discussion. (Budget reports can be found after this document.)

Chapter Support Board: Kay reported that the Chapter Support Board hasn’t met since our July meeting. In the meantime, she found out that records should be sent to Chapter Support via [info@theprairieenthusiasts.org](mailto:info@theprairieenthusiasts.org) or by mail. Records prior to 2024 can be archived - no need to send financials or legal documents as Chapter Support already has these documents. She delivered a box of materials received from Gary Adams. Kay inquired about signage - no policy has been developed - the goal is for all chapters to use a single vendor. Until a policy is in place, it was suggested that Rich Henderson be contacted. He has a large backstock of various signs. Americorps crew is slated to start on March 25, 2025. Their budget includes salary and equipment only.

\$10K grant for forestry mowing: Discussed during annual meeting.

Request to purchase grappling hook for tractor: Steve Querin-Schultz provided the Board with estimates. Debbie made the motion to approve the purchase of a grapple for \$2,150. Lynnette seconded. Motion carried.

EQIP program proposal for Iris Drive: Bob Retko requested Board approval to continue to pursue a forestry management plan and EQIP funding. Lynnette made the motion to authorize Bob Retko to gather more information and present his findings to the Board via email in October. Debbie seconded. Motion carried.

Display booth at upcoming events: Kay is coordinating display booths at Gays Mills Apple Fest on Saturday, September 28 and the Savanna Institute Open House on Saturday, October 5. She had a sign made for the canopy. Chapter Support is providing handouts and Parsnip Predators for sale. She needs more volunteers to sign up for the available time slots.

Other business: Jesse Bennett and Jaye Maxfield donated 7 Parsnip Predators to the SW Chapter.

Jack will follow-up with Jim Rogala and Dan Wallace re: the Folklore Village cooperative agreement.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Prepared by Becky Fernetto, Sept. 16, 2024