



Meeting date & location: November 13, 2024 on Zoom

**AMENDED AGENDA**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m by Chapter President Jack Kussmaul. Agenda revised to include Rich Henderson at 6:30 p.m.
2. Roll call: 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	O	Shaun Murphy-Lopez	X	Kay Wienke
O	Lynnette Dornak				

Also in attendance: Bob Retko, Rich Henderson at 6:30 p.m. Jack informed the Board that the agenda would be re-arranged to accommodate Rich’s participation.

3. Minutes of the September 14, 2024 meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes by Gary Adams, seconded by Roger Smith. Motion carried.
4. A motion to approve the Membership Minutes made by Roger Smith; Gary Adams seconded. Jack informed the board that Becky Fernette has agreed to serve as President, Lynnette Dornak agreed to serve as Secretary. Terms will begin in September 2025 following the annual membership meeting.
5. A motion to recognize and express appreciation for the service of Debbie Pavick for the past 3 years of service on the Board and her years of service on the Events Committee was made by Steeve Querin-Schultz. Roger Smith seconded. Motion carried.
6. Board member replacement for Debbie Pavick (Jack): Jack approached Kay Wienke; she declined due to other commitments. She suggested reaching out to the women who helped at the booths this fall. Jack expressed hesitation about inviting someone to join the board with whom we don’t have a relationship. Becky suggested Ross Shrago. Jack asked Bob Retko who declined. Becky responded to Kay by suggesting that the women join a committee to become more familiar with the Chapter. Steve recommended that Jack approach Ross Shrago.
7. Financial Report: (Steve Querin-Schultz) - gave a report of the balances from the September financial reports. (See Attachment 1a, 1b, 1c, & 1d))

8. Chapter Support Board Representative (Kay Wienke) - Kay referred the Board to her report that she submitted to Board members via email. (See Attachment 2)
9. Use of \$10,000 grant for forestry mowing: (Steve Querin-Schultz) - Twisted Oak Land Services provided 2 days of forestry mowing at Eldred Prairie and 8 days at Borah Creek Prairie - the services were paid with the \$10K grant and an additional \$6K from the funds that had previously been budgeted for the work. Both Jack and Steve commented on the positive transformation of both sites. Steve emailed before and after photos to Board members.
10. Sylvan Road concerns: Rich Henderson joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to discuss concerns about the work done at Sylvan Road. (See Attachments 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d) Jack shared his conversation with site steward Tom Hunt; he misunderstood on which fence line Tom was going to do the work.

Bradley Sells from NRCS visited the site and expressed surprise re: the destruction of the site. Rich has consulted with several ecologists and agency personnel and found no evidence that the work had been approved (Kristin Westad, Jan Kettel, Dan Carter). Rob Baller, Rob Schubert, and Pat Trochlell followed up on their initial report by re-visiting the site to observe the effects of the recent rain. No erosion had occurred; however, the amount of rainfall was minimal. Tom was on site during the visit and reportedly became defensive about the work he had done, and was not receptive to the concerns expressed by Rob, Rob, and Pat.

Rich clarified the value of this wetland resource and emphasized that the work encroached upon the wetland and scraped some of the seeps that support the wetland. Rich added that Tom may have misconstrued the directive of NRCS about not burning woodlands. In response to Tom's justification that Knowles-Nelson funding requires public access, Rich clarified that does not mean the addition of a road to meet the requirements of public access.

Recommendations from the Land Management Committee will require each Chapter to have a committee that oversees the work of site stewards. Rich reiterated that any work on a site must be included in the land management plan. Kay asked what repairs can be made on the site. Rich will forward the more recent recommendations to Jack to share with Board members. Jack offered to pay to restore the site. Rich will follow up with Chapter Support to find out who provided the work at the site, then talk with the contractor. He will also provide estimates for the repair/restoration.

Rich will reach out to Ryan O'Connor, DNR biologist for his assessment and recommendations for restoring the site. Steve asked who would make the final decision about restoring the damage. Roger suggested that we talk with Tom Hunt and attempt to mediate the situation.

11. Update on EQIP program for Iris Drive (Bob Retko) - See Attachment. Bob met with Gary Eldred and Britta Peterson at Iris Drive. EQIP would provide \$1400/acre for 4.5 - 7 acres. Bob will contact Chapter Support to see who is responsible for making contact with the farmer who is renting the parcel. Site preparation is slated to begin following harvest in fall 2025. Bob received support from the Board to continue to pursue EQIP funding.
12. Possible purchase of items being sold by Driftless Area Stewardship (Bob Costanza) - Bob updated the Board re: items available. Motion by Becky to purchase two prescribed fire signs. Steve seconded. Motion carried. Bob will follow up with DAS and arrange for purchase.

13. Proposed coordination with Folklore Village (Jack Kussmaul) - Kay suggested that we add a sentence *that all prescribed burns will follow TPE burn policy*. The document has been shared with Chapter Support for approval. Dan Wallace was contacted and Kay shared the revised language. Motion made by Steve to approve the contract with Folklore Village. Becky seconded. Motion carried.
14. Display booths at fall events (Kay Weinke, Lynnette Dornak, & Becky Fernette) - Kay: Two different events - Gays Mills Apple Fest and Savanna Institute Open House in Spring Green. Received a \$500 donation. Provided education. Demonstrated and sold Parsnip Predators. Engaged in conversation with participants. Kay suggested we include photos of invasive plants.
15. Site steward reports:

Bob R: Iris Drive - Planning to put together 3-4 member work crew. May burn brush piles this winter. Gary Adams cut fire breaks.

Steve: Borah Creek - Plans to update management plan and develop strategies for seeding areas that were mowed.

Jack: Eldred - Significant progress managing bracken fern, oak grubs. As an indirect result of a federal grant received by Jack for work on his property, Bob Costanza is contracted to do an additional \$3,000 work at Eldred. PdC prison crew provided clean up following the forestry mowing. Jack anticipates using the prison crews this winter.

Becky: Feist - Incredible progress made this year due to successful and productive work parties. Completed 75% of the firebreak. Will finish at the next work party on Saturday, December 7. Burning of the brush piles January 4, 2025. Gary Eldred has been approached about serving as Burn Boss for the anticipated spring 2025 burn.
16. Committee reports:

Events: No representatives in attendance.

Barn: Fire rake and 7 spray bottles donated by Jack. 5 gallons of white paint donated for kitchen rehab. Microwave donated by Steve. Walter Mirk donated a brush cutter and related equipment. George Riggin donated a broadcast seeder. These items will be stored at the barn for use on TPE-SW sites.

Land Management Committee: Will schedule a meeting at year's end.
17. Other business: Holiday card signing at Roger Smith's house in Boscobel - date and time TBD. Holiday get-together Saturday Jan. 25 at Castle Rock Inn. Annual Conference online February 12-15, 2025. Chapter get-together (online): Kay, Bob, & Becky to host. Chapter Collaborative on Tuesday, November 19: Topic: Recruiting new members. Jack has been approached by Chapter Support to develop a chapter-specific brochure.
18. Adjournment - Becky made the motion to adjourn. Steve seconded. Adjournment at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Becky Fernette, Secretary  
November 13, 2024