

# **St. Croix Valley Chapter**

March 11, 2025 6pm—8pm

Location: Hudson Library and Zoom

## **Agenda**

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### **TPE Board recap**

No report. Peter attending 11 March meeting.

### **TPE Land Management recap**

No report.

### **TPE Land Protection recap**

18 February meeting recap by Harvey.

Harvey recommended we read the TPE [Strategic Conservation Plan](#). It was adopted on Sept. 13, 2001, and is scheduled to be updated by the Board.

### **Chapter treasurer report**

No report.

At the last meeting, Marti Piepgras, chapter treasurer, gave an overview of our financial position in the February meeting. Updates from Chapter Support are quarterly so not much has changed. Link to [2024-225 Financial Overview for our chapter](#).

### **Chapter land management activity**

No work parties are scheduled for the remainder of Spring. Burn season is starting. Emails for prescribed burns will go out to crew members on the burn notification list. Only crew members will receive the emails; they will not be sent to the entire chapter.

### **Alexander Savanna**

- Alexander savanna parking lot may not satisfy our contract with Benson Excavating. Evanne requested a reduction in cost so we can pay someone else to fix the lot. Benson denied our claims. Evanne and Harvey will attempt to meet Benson at the lot to discuss the issues. Tentatively scheduled for March 24 or 27.
- Survey of Alexander savanna by Brandon King Land Surveying completed! Evanne gave Harvey a copy of the map of the survey. Harvey and Mike will look for the markers and add stakes so we know where the property line is.
- Snow seeding completed March 1. Alex explained the process and allowed about 27 volunteers to mix and spread the seeds.



Snow seeding.

Photo by Jay Arneson

Chapter field training (hands-on class) for newly trained crew members is still pending. Cancelled because of the snow on March 7.

Bill Ramsden will teach and Alex will assist. Date to be determined but before burn season starts (if possible). Plan on burning Evanne's planting.

Evanne emailed all crew members a report on a fire that got away as a VIRTUAL burn refresher.

### **Old Business**

Ginny will submit application on Thursday for Tropical Wings grant to cover first-year maintenance of new prairie at Alexander savanna.

Evanne submitted application on February 15 for WI Annual Invasive Species Action Awards. She described our chapter's volunteer effort to control invasive species on our project sites.

### **New Business**

Another homeowner in Afton inquired about an easement on a recently purchased lot. Bill and Heidi will visit when there is vegetation.

Prescott forwarded an email from Farm Commons. Farmers who have a signed contract with the USDA for funding under programs including EQIP, CSP, or REAP can file an appeal about terminated and frozen funding. [They explain the process](#). This affects the chapter because USDA reimbursement pays for our burns on private land. Now the farmer will have to pay us.

Dan Carter will visit seven sites in our area this spring, including Hammond Cemetery, the Star Prairie Seed Farm, and Alexander savanna. Everyone is welcome to come. Contact Evanne for dates.

Discussed a prescribed burn at Glover Park in the Town of Troy. A burn plan and site visit are required.

## **Chapter outreach events planned.**

Let Evanne know if there are more opportunities.

- Earth Fest. Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 12-4 pm at the UW-River Falls University Center
- Wings of Spring on May 10, from 8am-Noon at the Carpenter Nature Center (WI)
- Belwin Bison Release on May 17, 2025, from 10am – 2 pm
- First Presbyterian Church Community Care Fest on September 7, 2025, from 10am-1pm in Hudson
- KRLT Nature Night on October 4, from 1-7pm
- Robust schedule of field trips is being planned by chapter Education Team.
  - “In progress” trips to prairie plantings as follow up to the “How to Plant a Prairie” workshop.
  - Guided field trips to our project sites; that is, Blueberry, Alexander, etc.
  - Butterfly survey and identification trips.
  - Bat monitoring at project sites.
- Monthly chapter social events: not a business meeting, scheduled around talk or educational presentation.