



Minutes for meeting held on January 15, 2025 on Zoom

1. Meeting called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Chapter President Jack Kussmaul
2. Board members - X indicates "present", O indicates "absent"

X	Jack Kussmaul	O	Gary Eldred	X	Ross Shrago
X	Gary Adams	X	Becky Fernette	X	Roger Smith
X	Bob Costanza	X	Steve Querin-Schultz	X	Kay Wienke
X	Lynnette Dornak				

3. Election of new Board member. Motion to elect Ross Shrago to the Board made by Steve. Seconded by Becky. Motion carried. Welcome Ross!!!
4. Minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes made by Steve. Seconded by Roger. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's report: Steve explained the breakdown of funds that go to Chapter Support vs. the chapter. General donations: 85% to CS, 15% to chapter; grants 10% to CS; other donations (e.g. chapter specific) 10-15% to CS. Motion to accept financial reports made by Becky. Seconded by Gary A. Motion carried.
6. Chapter Support Board Rep Report (Kay): Executive Board Retreat in Viroqua 1/17 & 1/18. Budgets due to the TPE office by 2/1. Include \$ for display printed materials or amounts of materials needed. Kay suggested \$250 for Prairie Promoters and \$250 for brochures. Let Chapter Support know of any projects that they might get money for through grants. Iris Drive - Land Management Committee (Exec. Board) is addressing property boundary issue. Site monitor needed. Update on recovery of Sylvan Road due to fire break construction and bridge project requested. Americorps members have not been hired yet.
7. Suggested fundraising from Chapter Support (Jack): Events committee will discuss coordinating an event. Becky was invited to attend that meeting.
8. Site Steward Updates
 - Borah (Steve): Focus on putting together maps and designating management units. Lynnette has processed drone imagery from December 16 and will work with Steve & Gary E. to create maps for site management.
 - Bush Clover: No report
 - Double Oak (Bob C.): DNR may burn Double Oak along with 475+ acres.
 - Eldred (Jack): "Great things are happening!" Received \$2250 grant from Lancaster Community Fund to offset costs of a burn this spring. Successful work party with 8

participants on January 11, Bob C. and Jack (and sometimes Becky) have been clearing the NE area that the forestry mower was unable to access. Areas that don't have enough fuel to burn were seeded with grasses to discourage invasives. Plan to spot spray in the spring.

- Feist (Becky): Successful gathering that burned 8 brush piles. Work party to be scheduled in February to prepare for spring burn. Becky will submit a burn plan within the next 7 days.
- Iris Drive (Bob R): Becky Bradish from Chapter Support sent a letter to Gerald Campbell who currently rents out 7.2 acres for crop farming to request that he plant soybeans in 2025 with a termination of the rental agreement following harvest. Seed will be planted in the fall. Several brush piles have been tarped with plans to burn them after a snow fall.
- Sime Bald (Bob C.): Mississippi Valley Conservancy ownership of Sime Balds is postponed due to the need for a survey.
- Sylvan Road (Jack/Bob C.): No update regarding action to be taken, if any, to address fire break and other concerns raised by the Land Management Committee (Exec Bd). Jack has agreed to be the point-person for this issue. Bob C. assisted Tom in removing brush above the fire break last week.
- Thomas Wet: No report

9. Committee Updates

- Events (Lynnette): Holiday party at The Cottonwood in Fennimore on January 25, beginning at 5 p.m. Kay: Pollinator program in Gays Mills at community center on April 12.
- Barn (Becky): This year's focus will be on the foundation and support posts for second level, re-building doors/closing up unneeded doors/windows, replacing old lumber on outside corners, and finishing window repair/replacement. Committee will schedule an on-site meeting with Heritage Movers this spring.
- Scholarship (Lynnette): Solicitations sent out March 1, apps due on April 30. One week to review. Applicants notified on May 19.
- Land Management (Jack): Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 22. Site stewards to get budgets to Jack before meeting.

10. Election of President and Secretary (Jack): Motion to elect Becky as President and Lynnette as Secretary made by Steve, seconded by Lynnette. Motion carried. Many thanks to Jack for his leadership over the past 7 years!

11. Board vacancies (Jack): Discussed rationale for not recruiting more board members at this time. Encouraged board members to recruit people to serve on committees.

12. Other business: Discussed scheduling of upcoming meetings. See below.

13. Adjournment at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Becky Fernette, Secretary

Upcoming meetings:

March 19 via Zoom at 6 p.m.

May 10 at 2 p.m. at Jack's

July 12 at 2 p.m. at Ross'

Sunday, September 14 at Borah Creek Barn - annual meeting at 1 p.m., Board meeting to follow
November 19 via Zoom at 6 p.m.

2025 Goals

#1 We will continue to make improvements to the barn at Borah Creek to make it suitable to hold events there and to safely and cleanly store Chapter equipment.

#2 We will investigate having joint work parties with other groups.

#3 We will apply for and be awarded two grants this year.

#4 We will publish 2-3 articles in local or online publications.

Three-year Plan

1. Holding 6 events/programs per year.
2. Getting 2-5 new members at each event.
3. Adding QR codes on our signs.
4. Holding fundraising events.