

St. Croix Valley Chapter

January 26, 2026 6pm—8pm

Location: Hudson Library and Zoom

Present: Peter F, Wayne, Heidi, Ginny G, Bill, Doreen, Harvey, Marti, Evanne

On Zoom: Bob, Gabriel, Mike, Ed

Agenda

Celebration plans of Chapter's 30th anniversary

Evanne gave an overview of plans to celebrate our chapter's anniversary year. As details are confirmed events will be announced.

TPE November 25 Board recap

Peter reported that the executive director has left and the interim ED is Jessica Bizub. He also reported that the cost share model for supporting Chapter Support has been rolled out. The St Croix Valley chapter's share is a flat \$1,884 per month. This amount is significantly less than under the previous allocation model. Marti, our chapter treasurer, will include this expense in our 2026-2027 budget.

Peter also reminded us of the Board retreat on February 15-16 in Viroqua. Harvey will also attend.

TPE Land Protection December 10 recap

Harvey reported that The Prairie Enthusiasts has decided to re-register all easement and title deeds. He also reported that the IRS is proposing new language for easements. The date this change will become required is unknown.

TPE Land Management December 16 recap

No report.

Chapter Land Management Committee recap

Evanne reported that all site stewards have documented action plans for this winter.

- Approved request to remove brush at Oak Drive Wet Prairie, cost not to exceed \$2,500
- Approved request to remove brush at Alexander savanna, cost not to exceed \$2,500

Amounts will be added to next year's budget. However, discussion questioned whether we actually want to spend money on those activities.

Consensus was to ask all site stewards to draw up 1- to 3-year wish lists for their sites. This would include contractor expenses.

Marti, our treasurer also wants the chapter leader to decide how much we want for a "savings cushion".

Chapter treasurer report

Marti Piepgras, chapter treasurer, reported our chapter cash balance as of December 31, was \$64,945.73 (see below). She pointed out that we received \$ 39,531.34 in donations in

December. She cautioned that \$25K of this was a one-time donation from a member and we should not count on this each year.

St Croix Valley Chapter-Cash Balances as end of December 2025

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Beginning Unrestricted Cash | 29,146.70 |
| Reclass of Restricted funds from previous month | (2,150.00) |
| Net Unrestricted Income | 37,948.73 |
| Purchase of equipment | - |
| Change in Accounts Payable | - |
| Capital Expenditures | - |
| Ending Unrestricted Cash | <u><u>64,945.43</u></u> |

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Beginning Restricted Cash | 6,430.46 |
| Reclass of Restricted funds from previous month | 2,150.00 |
| Net Restricted Income | <u>(3,184.75)</u> |
| Ending Restricted Cash | <u><u>5,395.71</u></u> |

Breakdown of Restricted Balances:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Alexander Prairie | 2,053 |
| RBR - Rocky Branch | 25 |
| SCV - EDU (St. Croix Valley Foundation) | 799 |
| Blueberry Hill land management | <u>2,519</u> |
| | <u><u>5,396</u></u> |

Marti also prepared a draft chapter budget. Chapter Support will add our expected income and return the budget to us for a final review

The [April 2025-March 2026 Budget vs Actuals](#) report (as of November 30) is also available.

Report by new site stewards (various)

Alexander – Alex B and Wayne
Rocky Branch – Bob
Blueberry Hill – Heidi and Wayne and Peter Fritz
Foster – Alan and Alex
Brokken – Bill and Peter F
Oak Drive – Wayne and Tim

Questions and discussion

Marti Piepgras and her husband, Don, suggests we consider caring for the Wisconsin DNR site south of 29 just east of Moody's woods. This request was withdrawn by Marti. Research showed the site is a planted prairie and not really worth our effort.