

Dec 9, 2021 Prairie Smoke meeting minutes

Attendees: Ed Pfannkoch, Susan Powers, Barb Nigon, Chuck Kernler, Ruthann Yaeger, Walt Nigon

Secretary's report: Board members received the last meeting minutes by email, no discussion.

Treasurer report: All outstanding checks have been cashed. Treasurer's report was accepted.

PS Display Board: Ruthann brought the updated PS display board for review and comment. The new graphics for the title board and the mix of pictures are eye-catching. The board is designed so pictures are easily rearranged or updated, and descriptive text is included for the larger pictures. A variety of small native flower pictures are included which add interest but contain no labels. Barb agreed to prepare a list of the flower names (currently on the back of each small picture) which can be affixed to the back of the display or placed in front of the display. The Board thanked Ruthann for her work coordinating the update of the display board.

PS Banner: Barb will revive the investigation of having a larger banner prepared to be used at events like the annual picnic.

Board member resignation: Ruthann Yaeger delivered her letter of resignation with regret to the PS Board effective immediately. She plans to remain an active PS member. The PS Board accepted her resignation with regret and acknowledged that personal and family issues can impact time available to fulfill Board duties, but her presence on the PS Board will be sorely missed. The Board thanked Ruthann for her commitment and contributions to PS over the years. We will need to choose a new secretary, and in the interim Ed will serve as the liaison to Maribeth, the PS webmaster.

TMR prairie status: This site will need additional maintenance next year. No update on a new sign for this site. Barb will follow up with Ryan to see if he has any additional updates.

Website updates: The pictures and summary from the fall picnic have been posted to the PS website and look good. Meeting minutes from the two PS Board meetings need to be posted to the website. Also, the Upcoming Events section is out of date and should be updated.

Expenses:

- Payment for PS burn equipment storage
- Motion to make a donation to Sustainable Driftless (a 501(c)3 organization that produced the film "Decoding the Driftless"). For this donation PS will receive a copy of the film on flash drive. Motion seconded and passed.
- Motion to make a donation to Friends of Chester Woods (a 501(c)3 organization) for use of the picnic shelter at Chester Woods for the 2021 fall PS picnic. Motion seconded and passed.
- The Board wants to thank Patty and John Trnka for their seed collecting and cleaning presentation at the fall picnic.

Upcoming activities:

These activities will be added to the PS website to give members an idea of what is planned and updates will be posted when specific dates are chosen.

Annual meeting:

- Possible dates (in order of preference) are Sunday March 6, Sunday February 27, and Sunday February 20. Barb will check with the Chatfield library regarding available dates. We may show the film “Decoding the Driftless” or have a speaker TBD. Elections for Board offices are planned.

Ditch cleanup:

- Spring and fall ditch cleanups (a 2 mile stretch of Cty 19) followed by a meal at Walt and Barb’s house. Dates TBD.

Burn equipment maintenance:

- Typically done around burn season. PS members will be invited to help with larger tasks.

Spring Burns:

- Barb has received around 6-8 requests for spring burns. We hope to use at least one of these as a training opportunity for members who would like to observe a prairie burn.

Field trip:

- We would like to organize one or more field trips for 2022. Possibilities discussed included a trip to a fish hatchery (Chuck to investigate) or a trip to Sargent’s North to view their prairie project (Susan to investigate). Susan will also see if Sargent’s might provide a speaker on their prairie restoration for the annual meeting.

Outreach efforts:

- We currently have 5 Board members following Ruthann’s resignation and are hoping to add additional members interested in contributing ideas regarding the organization. This will be communicated through the upcoming member email and at the annual meeting. We may also reach out directly to members who have expressed interest in Board activities.

Meeting adjourned 9:08pm

Notes taken by Walt Nigon