

Minutes  
ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
April 13, 2020, 6:00pm | Conference call  
Governing Board Meeting

Attending: Trish Quintenz, Jeff Nelson, Emily Dangremond, Joe Armstrong, Susanne Masi, Bo Dziadyk, Floyd Catchpole, cassi saari, Paul Marcum, Connie Cunningham, Courtney Cartney, Gretel Kiefer, Anna Braum, Chris Benda, and Angela Kerber

Meeting Begins: 6:07pm

Review and approve the [Minutes](#) from February combined board retreat and governing board meeting minutes (no March meeting):

- Joe moves to approve minutes as revised, Susanne seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

### Chapter Reports

- Central: Trish Quintenz, President
  - The central chapter's sale was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings and field trips are likewise off until further notice. The April program was slated to be a presentation from Susan Helm, detailing her work on pollinator gardens in public spaces around Springfield. In light of the cancellation, Susan has shared her Powerpoint which will be made available via a link in the chapter newsletter.
- Forest Glen: Paul Marcum, President (Connie Cunningham, Past President)
  - [LINK](#) to full chapter report
  - On March 15, 2020, voting was finalized for Forest Glen Chapter board members. Newly elected officers: President- Paul Marcum, Vice-president- Susan McIntyre, Secretary- Eric Ulaszek, Treasurer- Ken Konsis
- Grand Prairie: Joe Armstrong, President
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- Northeast: cassi saari, President
  - We thankfully(?) didn't have any events for March or April that we had to cancel. Some were close to finalization, but ended up getting dropped.
  - We are up in the air with what to do with our May events and will look to guidance from the state of Illinois as well as the state INPS and other chapters as to which types of events to allow (less than 20 people, for example?) and which to avoid/cancel (IBSP, which drew ~60 last year).
  - We have a longtime, but new life member from the Northeast Chapter, Peter Winkler, who renewed at the *Dodecatheon* (\$2000) level.
  - Added a new Volunteer Opportunities page to our chapter site: [Volunteer with the Northeast Chapter](#)
- Quad Cities: Bohdan Dziadyk, President
  - The Quad City Chapter has had to make adjustments, like all groups, to the social distancing mandates of our political leaders. We had planned to examine a one acre prairie creation site at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Andalusia, IL on a day in late March. The threat of an approaching snow storm, however, forced cancellation of the trip. By the time we could reschedule, the Covid shutdown was in effect. We have proceeded to cold/wet treat (stratify) some ten pounds of mixed prairie seed from Nachusa Grasslands so the plowed prairie

can still be sown some time in April. When normalcy returns we hope to reschedule the field trips. Our annual *Stroll Through Spring* trip to Blackhawk State Historic Site at the end of April has also been cancelled. In addition a planned burn by volunteers at a hill prairie at Augustana's Collinson Ecological Preserve has been, at least so far, postponed due to weather as well as Covid concerns. Furthermore the North American Prairie Conference planned for July in Iowa has been postponed till 2021. I had hoped to encourage participation in that well-known alternate-year grassland extravaganza. That will be the third meeting for that event in Iowa. One positive event was a presentation to our chapter by Angella Moorehouse on prairie pollinators on March 11.

- Kankakee Torrent: Floyd Catchpole, President
  - The Kankakee Torrent Chapter was focused on the 2nd biennial Community Habitat Symposium that was held on February 22nd. The symposium was held at Joliet Junior College and consisted of two tracks with ten speakers plus Michael Jeffords as the keynote speaker. The symposium was a success, with over 100 registrants and 130 people in attendance (counting speakers, vendors, etc.).
  - We also held our monthly meetings in Manhattan, Illinois, with presentations in January by Anthony Gibson on identifying members of the former genus *Aster*, and March by Trevor Edmondson on macrophotography. Meetings and future events have been canceled for the duration of the Corona Virus epidemic.
- Southern: Chris Evans, President
  - The southern chapter is in somewhat of a standstill as our events and programs have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. We have been communicating with our members via email and Facebook and will restart programs and events when it is safe to do so.

#### Website Report (Jeff)

- [LINK](#) to web report
- Jeff contacted native plant sales contacts to update website information. Most have postponed or changed to online orders with scheduled pick-up days/times.

#### Membership Report

- Dodecatheon membership (\$2K) for Peter Winkler on April 9th (first one!)
- Cassi has started Stats tab in membership spreadsheet tracking 2020 % renewals of 2019: (Stats Tab, Column O in membership spreadsheet)
  - Central-64%, Forest Glen-83%, Grand Prairie-75%, Kankakee-64%, Northeast-78%, Quad Cities-72%, Southern-66% : Total 71%

#### Change Membership Amount to Chapter? (follow-up from board retreat)

- Potentially change the \$3.50 per member fee to a percentage amount?
- What would be the analysis of 15%, 20%, 25% of membership fees (no matter what level)? compared to \$3.50.
- Courtney compared disbursement, in totality 14% dispersed; works out to about \$3.50 per chapter. Changing to percentage would make a difference with a large donation or for those that contribute more. Courtney recommends changing to 15%.
  - Has the individual \$25 choice gone up over time? Yes, extra donation has recently added and generally some members donate above annually. Life

membership in the beginning was ~\$120; have asked those members to contribute periodically in the past and they have.

- Upping to 20% may help smaller chapters. What would the increased funds be used for? - invite and record speakers, rental fees
- Example: 15% of Dodecatheon membership would go to specific chapter (one time). As of now, Chapter gets \$3.50 per year for life for that member. Would not get an annual amount per year if moved to percentage.
- What about individuals that affiliate with multiple chapters? In spreadsheet, listed as primary chapter and secondary options. If member doesn't choose a chapter, 100% goes to State - alternatively could disperse among chapters.
- Could have a different matrix, i.e. tiered approach for life members
- Cassi has drafted bylaw change. Courtney has run the numbers for 2019. To send out to board via Slack in bylaws channel. **Discuss next month.**

#### Treasury Report (Courtney)

- [LINK](#) to treasury report
- Review & Approve 2020 Budget - follow up from board retreat
  - **Table to next month**
- Move ~\$30k from SIU checking into saving and make a little more money? Courtney can check the rates
- Reminder: spending from the state needs to be pre-approved in the board meeting. Such expenses should be paid for directly by the state for record keeping wherever possible to avoid reimbursements.

#### Tax Accountant Hire Discussion (follow-up from board retreat)

- Currently filing 990-EZ federal form since revenues are under \$50K. 2019 taxes will need to be 990-N form since our revenues are >\$50K. Need help with filing 2019 990-N form and potentially general advice on federal and state taxes.
- Central chapter is canceling plant sale this year, which will reduce income taxes a lot.
- Chris Benda's accountant doesn't do pro-bono, but does discount work for Friends of Shawnee. Could get their price estimates and cost for looking at previous years. Place holder of \$1000 for 2020, **move forward with estimates and discuss next month with 2020 budget.**

#### Research Grant Update (Susanne, Connie & Emily)

- [LINK](#) to grant report
- Welcome Emily to the committee!

#### Publications Update

##### Erigenia:

- Call for Papers Letter was sent out via email last month to membership and list of academic professionals
- Need past Erigenia 27 electronic copy to post on website. Jean may have gotten electronic copy from publisher.

- John got the Digital Object Identifier Number (DOI) and the two articles submitted to Erigenia have been posted on the webpage

Harbinger:

- Finishing completion. Chris may send out to several to review.

Annual Gathering Update (Joe)

- Among Covid-19 circumstances, have held off putting information on webpage, specifically registration so don't have to worry about refunding members.
- Postpone until fall? Will have to check with venue if can get same rates, especially since many things will be getting postponed. Potentially third weekend in October is possibility.
- Cancel for a year? Or explore something in its place online, not to replace entire AG but offer at the same time. Post on website that it is postponed until further notice, so members are at least not saving the date. May know more in a month if potential for fall or canceled for year. By time State lifts limits and is safe, may not have enough time to get up an running by fall though.
- **Consensus to cancel this year.**

**New Business:**

- Request for 2021 Budget: Chicago Wilderness Membership (cassi)
  - Northeast and Kankakee Torrent Chapters fall within the zone of Chicago Wilderness
  - Sliding scale membership fee, depends on org's budget but usually only \$50/year for small budget orgs
  - Northeast Chapter paid for 2020 membership
  - **Table for Next meeting**

Meeting ends: 7:42pm