



# Illinois Native Plant Society

*Illinois Native Plant Society*

PO Box 9245  
Springfield, IL 62791

## **Minutes State Governing Board Meeting April 14, 2025**

### **Call to order**

Board President Emily Dangremond called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

### **Board Members and Guests Present**

Emily Dangremond, Becky Croteau, Nancy Smith, Eric Ulaszek, Brian Charles, Carolyn Villa, Daniel Lara, Floyd Catchpole, Trish Quintenz

Guest: Sheri Glowinski

### **Quorum**

The Board achieved a quorum of 60% attendance.

### **Minutes**

**Board Treasurer Becky Croteau moved to approve the minutes of the INPS Governing Board for February 10, 2025 as emended. Board Member Eric Ulaszek seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board Member Carolyn Villa abstaining.**

April minutes are finalized and posted on the INPS website [here](#).

The Board Retreat Notes from March 30 are informational and were not approved by the Board.

### **President's report**

- Board Retreat** Board President Dangremond reported the successful completion of the 2025 Board Retreat where the Board agreed on the following time three priority areas and outcomes:
- Communications to improve member engagement, including things such as
    - Social media
    - Community outreach
    - Tabling
  - Adding value for members, including items such as
    - Improve retention
    - Organizational "how to"

- Consider opt-in membership directory
- Education and Support for members, including ideas such as
  - FAQs in Harbinger
  - Grants
  - Seed subscriptions
  - Webinars and plant ID sessions

Board President Dangremond emphasized the organization's reliance on its web team and the need for more member engagement.

**Social Media Presence** Board President Dangremond discussed the need for a more active social media presence and the importance of aligning communication with the board.

**Introduction of Potential Membership Chair** The Board President introduced Dr. Sheri Glowinski, who is interested in volunteering to help with social media, communications and potentially become a full board member as the Membership Chair.

Dr. Glowinski expressed her interest in contributing to the organization and agreed to discuss the specifics of her role offline.

### Membership and Website Report

**Website Self-Serve Event Pages** The website supports a new event dashboard that allows chapters to add events to a consolidated calendar. Board Member Daniel Lara-Newman reported that Webmaster Kate Ahrens is also working on membership management features and has sent out emails for new members from 2024.

**Hosted Emails** The Board discussed the need to transition to site-hosted emails for better continuity.

### Treasurer's report

**Treasurer's Report** Board Treasurer Becky Croteau presented the budget for 2025.

Income has decreased at the state level compared to previous years. The budget estimates \$23,000 in income and \$40,000 in expenses, resulting in a projected loss of about \$17,000. The Board noted that it had extra funds on hand in prior years and wished to distribute funds in the form of grants.

Treasurer Croteau recommends focusing on increasing membership to improve the financial situation and mentions changes in how membership fees are distributed to chapters.

**Board Member Carolyn Villa moved to approve the 2025 INPS Budget as presented. Board Member Trish Quintenz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Annual Meeting**

No report.

### **Organizational Practices**

#### **Coverage for Membership Chair**

Board Secretary Nancy Smith reported that the Executive Committee is handling membership issues until a chair is found and will propose policies to the board as needed.

### **Old Business**

#### **Bylaws Update**

Board Member Floyd Catchpole confirms that proposed bylaw changes will be sent to members before the annual gathering in June for voting.

#### **Rubus Field Trip**

The *Rubus* tour led by Dr. Mark Widrlechner event in either Kankakee or Iroquois County is still pending.

#### **Code of Conduct**

Board President Dangremond reported updates are still pending to the Code of Conduct.

### **New Business**

Board Member Floyd Catchpole suggested starting an email-based fundraising campaign for the grant program, potentially including information in the *Harbinger*. The board agrees to discuss this initiative further at the next meeting.

Dr. Sheri Glowinski, who is considering the membership chair role, will receive documentation about the position and meet with the Executive Committee to discuss it further. The next board meeting is scheduled for May 12th.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 6:54 PM by Board President Emily Dangremond.

### **Next Meeting**

May 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM by Zoom.