

MBC - State Board Meeting, January 23, 2016

Office of the Michigan Environmental Council Lansing, Michigan

January 23, 2016

in Attendance: Alice Ward, Bob Kelly, Craig Elston, Emily Nietering, Garrett Crow, Irene Eiseman, Jim Hewitt, Judy Kelly, Larry Nooden, Lynn Kirkpatrick, Mary Danforth, Michael Huft, Phyllis Higman, Richard Fowler, Sarah Nooden, Tony Reznicek, Wayne Roussel. (17)

Called to Order by President Judy Kelly at 12:01 PM

Approval of the Agenda and of the Minutes

The agenda was approved upon a motion by Emily, second by Bob.

Michael moved to approve the minutes of the

10/17/15 meeting, second by Wayne. Judy offered a correction to delete the last 3 words of the last sentence in item 6b, Web Master, which had read "...link to the chapter Facebook page started by Judy." A motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Irene, second by Michael, and passed.

Robert's Rules of Order – in effect for this meeting per Judy.

Announcements

President's email list: Judy passed around the list of board members for updating.

MBC brochure: Sarah passed around the pamphlet for changes or corrections.

Field Botany Course: Tony announced that he and Chuck Davis will be teaching this course at the UM Bio Station from June 25 to Aug. 20. He said financial support is available to offset tuition costs.

WAM Conference: Sarah has a display board that could be used at the Conference which will be held at the Kellogg Center in E. Lansing on March 6-7. The Club has purchased a \$50 ad in the Conference program which will enable MBC brochures to be

included in participant packets.

Committee Reports

Special Members Chapter – Irene announced the new chapter now has a vice-president, Derek Shiels of Petoskey, who was once a sponsored

student at a foray. Irene also said their Board is

considering action to change the name from Special Members Chapter to Great Lakes Chapter.

Web Site – Judy said the Square Space hosting

charge has been paid for 2016. Michael noted that the Michigan Botanist tab is not easily accessible. Michael will contact Sheila Bourgojn to ask her to reposition the tab back to the first page. Judy noted some chapters were not expeditiously updating their events on the site, particularly removing old events.

Corresponding Secretary – With the Foray on Labor Day weekend this year Mary questioned if there would be enough content to publish a spring Arisaema. Emily thought there would be and that there should be a spring edition as did Tony and Irene. Items to include would be a fall meeting recap (Judy to provide) and a piece about the new name for the Special Members Chapter from Irene. In order to include details of the April 30 spring meeting, to be provided by Emily, Mary's

preferred deadline is March 1. The fall edition of Arisaema will be published in early August to

accommodate details for the Foray and may or may not include chapter reports. Michael passed around issues of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) for ideas.

Treasurer – The Treasury Statement prepared by Bob for the period January through December 2015 showed a net outflow of \$2,419. The largest expense was \$1,825 for two publications and mailings of the Arisaema. With Board agreement, Bob will rollover a CD (Smith CD) for 1 year. Bob noted that the MBC money market account includes \$6,000 which was transferred from the “Smith Funds” account to be used for the publication of an updated Winter Wildflowers booklet. Bob will correct the date on the last entry in the Outflow column from 2015 to 2016 and with this so noted, a motion to approve the Statement was made by Wayne, second by Alice and approved.

The Michigan Botanist – Michael displayed the fourth double issue, newly printed and in the mail. The next one has been sent to the printer and should mail in February. The final catch-up double issue has been delayed somewhat due to extended author reviews and to author illness but should be completed in the 2nd quarter. Michael reported that he sold 11 copies of The Michigan Botanist (TMB) at an INPAWS conference last fall and also added two members through Facebook activity. Michael

continued his analysis from the last meeting on the impact of a pending \$1,000 annual charge to host TMB on the University of Michigan website. If TMB were made available only in an on-line format he estimated that a minimum of \$6,000 would be saved annually in printing and mailing expenses. Much of this cost is currently covered by institutional subscribers including the U of M Library and by the Hanes Fund. It was agreed that any decisions about the future format of TMB should wait until the Journal is fully caught up in its publication schedule and then a committee should be formed to carefully study the issue. Michael, Larry, Tony, and Bob were mentioned as logical candidates for such a committee. In the meantime, less expensive hosting sites should be looked at such as Proquest, mentioned by Bob. Emily thanked Michael for his fine efforts in bringing The Michigan Botanist back on schedule.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee – no report at this time.

Big Trees – Judy said she spoke with Andy Sawyer and that he would participate with Releaf Michigan, a statewide tree planting and education organization, in their Big Tree Hunt Program. Jim asked if there was any progress in placing the big tree database on the website. Neither Judy nor Emily were aware of any progress.

Isobel Dickinson Award Committee – Irene

mentioned an apparent trend of multiple student authors per paper with a current extreme example of 25 authors for one submission and that this will complicate the Committee’s work. She announced that Bev Walters and Dan Skean had joined the Committee.

Spring Meeting Report – Emily confirmed Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, MI as the site for the April 30 meeting. There is an auditorium, space for both MBC and MBF board meetings, and a likelihood for a good display of spring flora on the grounds as well as their rare conifer collection.

Fall Foray Report – Wayne said the Southwest Chapter is in receipt of a check from the Hanes Foundation to help with costs for the event to be held Labor Day Weekend at Holiday Inn West in

Kalamazoo. The field trips are settled, new first aid kits have been ordered, and a registrar is in place.

One question raised by Wayne and the other organizers (Becky and Lynn) was if non-

members would be eligible to attend. Garrett felt that non-members should be welcome and Board members agreed but with the understanding that members should have priority in field trip assignments. It was suggested that the Foray could be advertised through the North Chapter of INPAWS.

Foundation Report – Acting President Emily announced the first grant for 2016 has been awarded to Susan Fawcett for a two-year study of spleenworts and she passed around a paper describing the study.

Emily said that Michael Huft and Bob Kelly have joined the Foundation Board bringing it to six members and that the Board would meet April 30 to elect officers for terms beginning in July.

Nominating Committee – Sarah announced candidates for four of the five openings have been selected by the Committee as follows: President, Garrett Crow; Vice President, Dan Skean;

Corresponding Secretary, Sheila Bourgoin;

Recording Secretary, Jim Hewitt. A candidate for Treasurer is still sought.

New Business

Nonprofit status of MBC: 501(c)4 vs. 501(c)3 –

The pertinent differences between the two organizational structures, as explained by Michael, is that c4, under which MBC is organized, does not permit tax-deductible contributions but does allow unlimited lobbying. Under c3 tax deductible contributions are allowed but lobbying is restricted to 20% of expenditures.

In seeing advantages to a c3 status, Irene, as did Larry, felt the Club's finances were not in the best of shape and she also believed, as did Tony, that there would be a greater likelihood of increased contributions if they were tax deductible. Richard preferred the current arrangement with MBC removed from contribution and grant issues and the Foundation handling that function. Emily noted that two recent contributions received by MBF and intended for MBC were easily passed on.

No one present could recall much in the way of lobbying and any activism on legislative issues was believed to be educational in nature. Other issues raised in this discussion included the cost of a c3 application (\$400), the impact of the change on the chapters' organizational structures, the need for amended Articles of Incorporation, and the restrictions, if any, of moving money from the Foundation to the Club.

Garrett moved, Tony second, to request Michael to identify the paperwork required for MBC and its chapters to apply for and maintain c3 status and the pros and cons of doing so. Motion approved and Michael agreed to work on this. Irene suggested this issue be shared with the membership in the Arisaema and this could happen if Michael would make his analysis of the topic available for Mary.

b. Special recognition award - Larry explained that there are examples of noteworthy contributions toward the mission of MBC by non-members who would benefit personally and professionally from recognition. Garrett and Tony liked the idea, and there was some discussion of what to call it and the nature of the prize. Michael said it could be named after an individual, e.g. Ed Voss. Larry submitted a page-length explanation in support of his idea, but Irene wanted him to sharpen the definition of the award and bring it to the next meeting for action. She put this in the form of a motion second by Alice which was approved.

Garrett had a separate idea, also supported with a prepared document, of a distinguished botanist award to bring in an academic of note to speak at the fall meeting and thus encourage greater general membership attendance at that meeting. Due to the length of the board meeting this proposal was not acted upon but would be considered next time.

Garrett said his main motivation was to give

everyone in the Club an opportunity to get together more than just once a year at the Foray.

7. Old Business

a. Winter Wildflowers - The project is progressing per Lan-y and Tony. Some photos still needed.

8. Next State Board Meeting - April 30 at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, MI Time to be determined.

9. Adjournment - Upon a motion by Sarah, seconded by Mary, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

-Submitted by Jim Hewitt, Recording Secretary

Revised 02/16/2016