

MBC State Board Meeting Minutes — January 31, 2015

The meeting was held in the Office of Michigan Environmental Council, 602 West Ionia Street, Lansing, Michigan on January 31, 2015.

In Attendance: Aaron Fown, Alice Ward, Becky Csia, Bev Walters, Bob Kelly, Charlotte Gyllenhaal, Craig Elston, Emily Nietering, Garrett Crow, Irene Eiseman, Jim Hewitt, Judy Kelly, Lynn Kirkpatrick, Mary Danforth, Michael Huft, Richard Fowler, Tony Reznicek, Sarah Nooden, and Wayne Roussel (introduced by Becky) (19)

Called to Order by President Judy Kelly at 11:57 AM

Approval of Minutes

Bob Kelly moved to approve the minutes of the 10/18/14 meeting with these two corrections: 1) Item 5.f. second sentence to read "prepare a report" instead of "send an email" and 2) item 5.i. to read "select the best student-authored" award instead of "issue the student" award. Second by Sarah Nooden and approved.

Robert's Rules of Order -- in effect, per Judy; members wishing to speak should raise their hand.

Announcements

Judy needs Garrett Crow and Jim Hewitt to provide her additional information for her Email list.

MBC brochure: Sarah passed around the brochure (sent to members earlier via Email and seeking comment) for chapter presidents to update their information.

Field Botany Course: Judy and Tony Reznicek encouraged members to notify their chapters of this class, being co-taught by Tony this summer at the

U. of M. Biological Station. Students in particular may be eligible for subsidies and/or credits.

Committee Reports

Special Members – Irene Eiseman showed a map of Special Member distribution (10 in U.P.; 11 in N.L.P.; 19 in S.L.P.; 31 in Midwest outside Michigan) and the results of a survey in which 65% of responding Special Members favored the idea of chapter status. Irene said chapter status would give this population of members control over some of their dues and allow them to sponsor students for the Spring Foray. Discussion on the structure of and the relationship of the Michigan Botanical Club and the individual chapters – both groups have constitutions/bylaws. Michael Huft contrasted this approach with Indiana where only the state organization has the constitution and the chapters are affiliates. Garrett Crow was concerned with any

measure which might unintentionally serve to weaken MBC overall. He pointed out the demise of the Red Cedar Chapter and felt one or two of the remaining chapters were not all that strong. Garrett favored a strong state organization, like the Indiana example, as did Michael. Judy polled the members informally on the question of allowing Irene to further pursue an understanding of the bylaws, Article III, pertaining to adding a chapter and whether there are in fact Special Members willing to assume the responsibilities of chapter operation. All in favor except for Garrett who abstained.

Web Master – Aaron Fown reported on his initiative for "driving engagement" on the chapter website. The software, Squarespace 7, he said, would allow anyone to be an editor and thus help keep website content fresh with, for example, multiple blogposts. For those not quite ready for this, Sheila Bourgoin has volunteered to be content manager and in this role would be able to accept information from chapter members and post to the site. Sarah will ask Sheila to submit a short bio for publication in the Arisaema to introduce her to the club.

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Danforth announced there would be but two Arisaemas published this year. For the spring edition she would like material in her hands by the end of February with the exception of Spring Foray details which she understands will be later. Mary would like to include in the Arisaema the data Irene gathered on Special Members and Irene will send this to her.

Treasurer – Bob Kelly reported a net gain in 2014 of \$4,500 (“a good year”) largely due to high income from the Summer Foray. A portion of this gain will go to the Southeast Chapter to help underwrite the costs of the Spring Foray. The financial statement he presented showed a bank balance of \$68,743. Garrett noted an outflow of \$2,000 for the Michigan Botanist Business Manager Stipend but no corresponding inflow from the Hanes Trust. Bob said that there is a commitment from the Trust to pay this stipend but that it has to be requested and that the request and the receipt may have overlapped years. Bob will investigate these transactions since his term as treasurer, make a request for the stipend from the Hanes Fund if necessary, and report to the board in a separate document. Michael Huft moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Alice Ward and approved.

The Michigan Botanist – Michael Huft displayed a few copies of the latest edition, a double issue (Vol.

52 Nos. 1 & 2) of 56 pages fresh off the press. He pointed out a few of the changes in this his first issue as editor such as a mailing date on the inside front cover and a “In this Issue” paragraph. Michael said the next issue is nearly ready to be typeset and that he has enough material for six double issues for 2015 which would bring the journal up to date by 2016. Michael will provide the treasurer, Bob, with the total income and expenditures of The Michigan

Botanist each year. Discussion on the pros and cons of changing the name of the journal to the Great Lakes Botanist. Libraries are charged \$25 per issue and Garrett wondered about increasing that price for

additional revenue (no proposal). 85 copies are sent to the U. of M. Library at a reduced rate which they use for exchanges with other libraries. Irene noted that the chapters, which pay for The Michigan Botanist, will be impacted this year by the double issues.

Constitution and bylaws committee – Bev Walters reported that the committee, consisting also of Michael Huft, Becky Csia, & Sarah Nooden has not yet met. Unsure if they will meet before the next meeting.

Big Trees – Judy reported that Andy Sawyer is working to post a pdf of the inventory to the website.

Isobel Dickinson Award Committee – Irene Eiseman reported that the committee (herself plus Garrett Crow, Becky Csia, Neil Harriman, and Ruth Hart) worked well together in coming up with a unanimous choice for the award. The winners were Kelsey Huisman and Alex Graeff, two students of Pam Laurento at Grand Rapids C. C., who, along with Dr. Laurento, published a paper on their cattail (Typhaceae) research at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in The Michigan Botanist (Vol. 51, No. 3). A discussion ensued around the issue of, since the funds for the Dickinson award reside within Michigan Botanical Foundation (MBF), how the committee is selected and how the award is announced and given. Some felt a need for a memorandum of understanding between the two groups to clarify these points (also discussed in Item 7a below). There was also discussion over whether the announcement of the award should be published in The Michigan Botanist. Per Michael Huft, it will be.

Spring Foray Report – Emily Nietering reported that the Foray will be held at a yet-to-be determined hotel with conference center in the Saginaw/Bay City area on Memorial Day Weekend, May 22-25. Field trips will radiate out from there with a special emphasis on

the Thumb. Emily asked that board members send her any ideas they may have for field trip leaders in this area and for evening program speakers.

Foundation Report – No report.

New Business

Per Larry Nooden via Sarah Nooden, a request that each chapter designate an alternate to attend the state board meetings if needed.

Old Business

MBC and MBF – Judy summarized a one-page note written by Larry Nooden and previously sent to board members and in which he recommended re-examining the constitution of the MBF and its relationship with MBC. The two organizations are separate but MBF board members must be members of MBC. It was generally felt that more communication between the two groups would be helpful as would a memorandum of understanding (see Item 5h above). It was believed, per Irene, that Robert Sabine, treasurer of MBF had previously sought such a document.

Some institutional memory may have been lost about the intended relationship between the two when MBF was created but Emily did find a page of minutes in her travelling files that may help and which she will make available to the board. Judy will ask Larry to refine his note to a specific question format which she will send around to board members for comment and then forward to Pam Laureto, president of MBF.

SN Conference of Jan. 23-24 — Sarah said the Stewardship Network did not use display boards at the conference but instead used an electronic bulletin board on which the names of supporting organizations including MBC (with logo) were displayed. Sarah also said she sent an Email to chapter presidents suggesting they forward their events to Stewardship Network for display on their Searchable Events Calendar.

Next State Board Meeting – will be held during Spring Foray weekend, May 22-25 in Saginaw/Bay City.

Adjourn – Upon a motion by Lynn Kirkpatrick, second by Emily Nietering, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52.

Submitted by:

Jim Hewitt, Recording Secretary