

January 10, 2023 EMG ExCom Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ken Schechtman, Caroline Pufalt, Caitlin Zera, Stephanie Todd, Jim Rhodes, Matthew Self, John Feldman, Jean Nock, Ashton Kuehnel, Diana Oleskevich

1. Review November minutes

December minutes approved.

2. Introduction of New ExCom Members and Election of Officers

New elected Ex-Com members are Matt Self and Jean Nock. Diana O. was re-elected. Continuing ExCom member, Ken Schechtman was reelected as Chair. Caitlin Zera was reelected as Vice Chair. Jim Rhodes is our new treasurer. Stephanie Todd was reelected as secretary. Matt was elected to be the EMG representative to the Missouri Chapter. All votes were unanimous.

Required Committees:

Outings Chair: David Campbell and John Feldman were elected as co-chairs.

Conservation Chair: Caroline would like someone else to be chair; Decision delayed to next month.

3. Outings and Trails Committee Request for Funding – John Feldman

Budget has been submitted from the Outing and Trails Committee. In the past, training has been paid for by a grant, but Gretchen was not sure we will get one this year. In the meantime, a budget of \$3500 was approved. This was more than the \$2,747.88 requested, but at least one more person has signed-up for Outing Training and we may have to pay for first aid kits this year. Also, Ex-Comm felt we should pay for food for the people that volunteer for trail maintenance instead of asking them to pay a portion.

Outings leader training will be given Jan. 21. Eleven new people and 10 prior leaders have signed up. Leaders need both first aid and CPR. New leaders need an existing leader to shadow them on an outing. Wilderness training is required for overnight outings. Six people signed up for training in late February.

4. Treasurer's Report – Jim Rhodes

Several items need to be paid and Jim would like authorization to pay. Chapter requested \$5000 and it was determined it was authorized in a prior meeting.

Authorized \$2592 payment for printing and mailing the fall 2022 Sierra Scape newsletter. The Meetup expense was included in the Outings and Trails budget.

5. E-newsletter and Sierra Scape – Caitlin

Request will be coming for articles and pictures for next e-newsletter. Print newsletter comes out in spring and fall. Fall issue also contains the ballot. Newsletter Committee will meet about the Sierra Scape in the beginning of February. Print newsletters only go to members, approximately 4000. E-newsletter goes to both members and supporters.

6. Conservation committee report – Caroline

At the end of December we had a rush deadline of December 23 to submit comments on a riverfront development project near Bangert Island. In 2021 we opposed much of

the City of St Charles' plan to develop the area in and around Bangert Island. The "final" decision in May 2021 was a flawed, but slightly improved, development plan.

Now the City of St Charles is asking to "amend" that plan because they want a better "view" for their development. This new plan destroys almost 40 acres of forested wetlands and reroutes nearly a mile of stream. The city's plan to mitigate for this wetland loss is a pitiful 3.7 new wetland acres, wetland credits (location unknown) and a designation upgrade for an existing part of Bangert Island. This is a sham response to an action which should not be permitted. We are trying to stay on top of this to solicit comments and try to stop it.

The Silica mining permit in Saint Genevieve was rescinded because the permit was not filled out properly. However, the mining company is going to appeal. So, we need to continue to fight against this!

Also, the Committee has been working on flooding issues by supporting some Green Party webinars.

7. Legislative, democracy, and political committee reports – Caroline and Ashton
Committee Meeting Jan. 13 at 1:00. Everyone is invited to join.

Working on opposing proposed rate hike from Ameren, average increase to be approximately \$12/month. There will be an Ameren Rate Case Community Meeting and Testimony Training on January 18 at 6:00. RSVP at: [Ameren Rate Case Community Meeting & Testimony Training \(sierraclub.org\)](#). Can attend by either Zoom or in-person. Four in-person hearing on Feb. 9 and two virtual meetings. Contact Ashton for more information.

Main initiative for this year is keeping the ability of voters to put issues on the ballot.

Lobby Day is coming up!

8. Political Committee – Ken

Ken reported that there is no committee report at this time. Ashton mentioned though that some volunteers are involved in the St Louis City alderman changes resulting from the significant reduction in aldermanic seats.

9. Next meeting Feb. 14, 2023

Meetings will remain the second Tuesday of each month.