

Minutes from EMG Ex-Com Meeting – April 19, 2022

Attendees: Ken Schechtman, Caitlin Zera, Caroline Pufalt, Tim Elwell, Stephanie Todd, Diana Oleskevich, Robert Roberson, Ashton Kuehnel, Glenn May

1. **Approved March minutes**
2. **Treasurer's Report** –
 - Robert sent out first quarter report.
 - Deposit of \$1695 total but do not know what it is for. Reimbursement was made for Outings Training.
3. **Newsletter** report by Caitlin
 - Newsletter will go to the printer at the end of this week. Planning on having the print addition ready for distribution prior to Earth Day for distribution at our booth at the Earth Day Festival.
 - Next newsletter will come out in mid-September.
 - Caitlin is working with Mary and Natalie to update webpage with current newsletters and make them easier to find.
 - As a way to increase both the reach and inclusion of the newsletter, information will be posted on social media.
 - The newsletter is bringing back the Featured Volunteer in print newsletter. Let Caitlin and Tim know if you would like to nominate someone.
 - **Action:** Someone ask Jim Rhodes to add connection to newsletter on Meetup.
4. **Earth Day** –
 - A decision had been made not to send emails requesting volunteers for either Lemonade or Information booth. Still need volunteers for the Information booth. All shifts are filled for Lemonade.
 - Action:** Ashton – will send out individual emails asking people to volunteer for the Information Booth.
 - Action:** Caitlin will work with Ashton to put together a plan to follow-up with volunteers for Earth Day. Will send the information to the EMG.
5. **Conservation Report** by Caroline:
 - New issue – Silica mine in St. Genevieve County near Hawn State Park. Specializes in special sand used for fracking. Motion for EMG to oppose silica mine made by Diane. Seconded by Tim. Passed unanimously.
 - Response to question if the mine could be stopped using federal regulations. At this time, no. The mine is at the State level. A private company is asking approval from the State. Also, the State implements the federal clean air act.
 - Caroline outlined campaign. Comment period ends April 30. A public hearing will be held May 19. First step – get comments in!
 - Action:** Caroline will write Special Alert and will get input from others. Ask Michael to send alert. Try to get people to show-up at the public hearing. Contact John Feldman to help using his connections with Friends of Hawn.

6. Chapter Report

- Standards of Conduct

- Every Chapter EX-com member is required to sign every year. Proposed by Caitlin that every EMG EX-Com member sign the standards of conduct every year. Will put on the agenda for next month so everyone has a chance to review the standards.

- Chapter Board met April 3rd. Endorsed Cori Bush and ----. Chair continues to be Kevin Grooms with Caitlin as Vice Chair. Caroline is the Conservation Chair. Need Outing Chair, Nominating/ Elections Chair and Legislative Chair

Action: Ken – Add Standards of Conduct for EMG to next meetings agenda.

7. Outings and Trails Report by John Feldman via email. He was not able to attend meeting.

- Completed trail work week in Roger Pryor backcountry with about 12 people participating.

- To date have completed about 80% of the 30 miles of adopted trails.

- Fall 2022 will be the last time the Outing Group will be able to use the Current River State Park Lodge before it undergoes multi-year renovation.

8. Legislative Committee – report by Ashton

- Lobby Day was attended by over 50 people.

- Next Lobby Day is May 3. Information will be at the booth at Earth Day. This Lobby Day will focus on Missouri Voting Rights and a Pro-Democracy Rally will be held at the Capitol.

- Shift in strategy. Lots of bills attacking right to vote, but most of them are not moving. Therefore, phone banks are canceled. Don't want people to do a lot of unnecessary work.

Action: Contact Ashton if you would like to attend Lobby Day

9. Other

- May 5 is STL Giving Day

Virtual Trivia Night that night – participate – free!!!!

Ashton will be sharing information on getting donations

- St. Louis City – survey for using America Rescue Funds – Ashton creating survey

[ARPA Community Needs Survey \(stlouis-mo.gov\)](https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/ARPA-Community-Needs-Survey)

10. Next Meeting will be held May 10.