

March 14, 2017, EMG Excom meeting

Present at meeting - Excom members: Ken Schechtman, Henry Robertson, Rob Polzin, Paul Ohlendorf, Caitlin Zera, John Feldmann.

Secretary: Caroline Pufalt Guest: Ross Hunt

1. Approved last month's minutes.
2. Budget proposal submitted by Rob via email.

Increase in Lemonade sales made last year a good one. Also we have slightly more in donations this year so far, and our carryover budget on outings/trail building was better as we did not lose \$ on the trail maintenance outing.

3. Ross Hunt asked if we would consider donation to Green Time TV. 26 episodes a year. Production costs are donated. We have 45-second ads that could run on each program. It is broadcast in St Louis, Springfield, and Marshfield, MO. Chapter donated \$150. Sierra Club has participated in several programs hosted by John Hickey. Channel 24 is local broadcast station. The station reaches audiences that we don't normally reach (religious, low-income, people of color). HR/JF moved and seconded to donate \$250 for Green time TV - approved unanimously.

4. General meeting/program report - March 23 is joint meeting with Audubon. Should we ask Mitch about refreshments? Caroline will check on details on computer set up. April program can be about state redistricting, we agreed that sounds good. John Hickey suggests a May program on how institutions communicate on climate change, or how local outdoor companies help protect parks. John Feldmann will pursue these issues with John Hickey.

John Karel is available for June meeting to cover state parks issues. July event will be at Olympia restaurant, and no program in August.

5. Earth Day plans: Paul has reserved spot for our information booth. The fair provides table. Not sure if they provide chairs. The spot we have is under a roof. Caroline and Paul will work on stuff for the booth. Jim Young and John Feldmann are key folks on lemonade booth which is on track. We have outreached for volunteers and should do so at the March meeting.

6. Outings report - trails committee outing at Hawn state park this weekend.

5. Sierra Scape need additional articles for current issue- Henry will write a piece to highlight some state bills. We will also have an invite to Lobby Day.

6. Conservation issues update: There is controversy over trail building at Cliff Cave Park, a county park. Background is complicated and some local issues involve traffic and entrance points to the park, not just the trail. The trail is 2 mile paved loop. Concern about endangered bats in the area. Also a question about whether St Louis County followed proper procedures in approving the project. The Sierra Club has taken no position. Trail construction is underway.

Caroline described a new project called Port of Lincoln inland waterway development and harbor. This is in Lincoln County north of St Louis and would involve land and harbor construction. The project is still in early stage with no actual permit applications. The Sierra Club has been approached to join Great Rivers Habitat Alliance and others in opposition. Their goal is to raise questions and concerns early.

We discussed this issue but decided we wanted more information before taking a position. Caroline will check with GRHA about

setting up a time to hear more about this. She will also contact Mitch at Audubon to see if they have taken a position.

EMG has been contacted by individuals living in Sulphur Springs area about a permit request for large barge fleeting project. We did send out an alert to members in the area about this. Since first proposed the project has been downsized, but it still raises concerns about impacts. Caroline will write a comment letter for EMG.

Caroline reported that the chapter has hired a part time person to work on public lands issues in the Ozarks. Highlighted items will be ONSR trails decision, large timber sale in MTNF, pipeline across state park land and more.

7. Michael Berg and/or Rajv Ravulapati (both chapter staff) are doing e newsletter for EMG. Also EMG is still paying chapter for staff to do bookkeeping for us. Chapter is ok with that arrangement. Could we hire some time from chapter employees to work for EMG on organizing events? We would need some idea of tasks, budget and time. John Feldmann will broach this topic with John Hickey.

8. Next EMG excom is April 10.