

EMG excom meeting minutes, Sept 10, 2019 -

Excom members present: Segolene, Caitlin, John, Glenn, Ken
others: Caroline, secretary

1. Caitlin is attending Council of Club Leaders meeting in San Francisco this week. We briefly discussed some of the resolutions proposed. None seemed controversial, one, on citizen air testing needed clarification.

2. Budget discussion. We know lemonade sales went fairly well but no final total yet.

John expressed concern about what we have done and are planning to do with the profits from lemonade sales. We have an ample cushion of funds beyond yearly budget. We need to look for good ways to spend our money, there are certainly many environmental needs. John suggested several items to consider: 1. shades for the office 2. voter education, election promotions via paying for more staff hours 3. campaign to support more solar use in MO.

We discussed the need to do more with our savings. Our volunteers work hard to raise funds. Recently we have spend \$ to support staff work on EMG issues, we donated to County Parks campaign, to River Soundings conference, to trails events, but still have significant savings. The challenge is to develop or contribute to an effective campaign. Funds are C4 but still retain restrictions on how spent.

Caroline summarized chapter financial situation. There was chapter financial committee earlier today. The chapter lost a couple significant funding sources in 2018 when McCaskill lost the election. Those were pollution and health related funds. In 2019 the chapter has a robust plan to be involved again in lobbying, elections, initiative petitions as well as ongoing public lands support and energy programs. Chapter will be spending down some of its reserves in 2020 and will likely face 2021 with some difficult choices.

John Feldman moved that we fund an additional two hours a week of staff time to support EMG in areas of voter education and engagement and election work as appropriate. This would start in Jan 2020 through Dec 2020. Segolene seconded it. Vote in favor was unanimous.

3. Nominating committee is Caroline, John Feldman and Glenn. Current excom members whose terms expire in Dec 2019 are Caitlin, Ken and Rob. Caitlin and Ken have indicated they will run again. We discussed briefly 3 potential candidates for excom. The committee will pursue commitments.

4. Sierra Scape: Deadline for candidate statements set as Sept 27. We need at least one new article for Sierra Scape, possibly 2. Glenn is helping REI with a recycling project, he will try to get a photo from that, Caitlin has contacted Don Barnes. They will need to format the ballot and election instructions in the new system. We will include article re Jerry Surgerman who died recently and was hero against Meramec Dam.

5. monthly program schedule: Our formerly scheduled Sept speaker, Jan Patrick, had to postpone. He is now tentatively scheduled for Jan 2020. Jenn DeRose will speak this month on St Louis local food/sustainability scene. October topic is Solar Consortium from Earthways. November will be our photo share. John will contact Richard and Terri to see if they are still willing to lead that. December will be holiday party. Caitlin suggested we could consider Brian Wilcox from State Parks next year. We agreed that would be good.

6. Outings and trails committees: Plans for Trail week in October are going well. Michael Berg is helping with registration. We may have a group of teens from KC participating, which would be great. Wednesday that week will be a day off for our cook. John Feldman has been working with park officials on plans for our work. We will spend part of the time on Current River SP trail building. Other work will be trail maintenance.

7. Conservation: We received email from St Louis Audubon telling us (EMG) they will give us an award, at their 9/27 annual event, for our work on County parks. Who should go and accept the award for us? Ken has told them he, or his designee, will be there. Can we find another volunteer who worked on this issue and would want to attend? Caroline suggested Fran Glass.

Caroline reported the Bangert Island development issue in St Charles is a huge issue which we could choose to invest in. Update on this tomorrow at Big Muddy speaker series.

Caroline reported that we did get a letter from Great Rivers Greenway in response to the letter we signed on to with other local NGOs and concerned individuals.

Response was lukewarm. It included indication that environmental and ecological issues will be considered in working group, but lacked clear commitment to fold it

into all steps. However, the letter does include an opening we can build on. Many of us attended the Aug open house GRG held on trail expansions connected to new bridge over Meramec. The meeting format was not helpful, very crowded room, hard to engage in dialogue etc. But it was great many folks attended. And we know from feedback that our membership is enthusiastic about GRG, but to varying degrees regarding ecological footprint. Caroline attended an outings committee meeting in Aug to introduce this topic. Glenn was at Trails committee where it was discussed. Both committees were interested. At this point Caroline will help follow through on our letter to GRG and request for better environmental review process. But currently she will rely on decisions on specific trails, which we should or should not take a position on, to Outings and Trails committees.

Sierra Club is co sponsoring event with Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Sept 25 at Schlaffly's with speaker on Missouri River takings lawsuit. Event will be posted on FB.

Tim expressed interest in earlier email in helping with EMG effort to support film on CAFO pollution and local control issues. This again would be a co-sponsor event with MCE and not until December.

Segolene, Tim and John Kissel will attend event Sept 19 at the Zoo re communicating climate change. The Chapter will have a table at the Zoo on Sept 29 as part of a climate awareness day.

8. next EMG ecom meeting Oct 15, tuesday