

Sept 15 2021 EMG Excom draft minutes

Excom members present: Ken, Caitlin, Robert, Tim

Non Excom members: Caroline Pufalt, Stephanie Todd, Michael Berg

1. Excom approved August minutes.
2. Robert reported that we had minimal financial activity last month. One CD did mature and was deposited in our account. Another will mature soon. Sierra Club now has a policy that groups should not have CDs with more than one year term. So, we will adjust that as the next one comes up
Our general financial outlook has been impacted by 2 years without profits from lemonade sales. Our expenses are a bit over \$10,000 a year. Major expenses are \$ to chapter for staff help and cost of 2 printed issues of the Sierra Scape. Also, some outings expenses, such as \$ for first aid training, etc.
3. Caitlin reported on Sierra Scape schedule. Candidate statements and photos should be received by Oct 4. Chapter newsletter is now published in color and Caitlin suggested we try that with Sierra-Scape. With color the newsletter will look more impressive and interesting, and our photos that we want to share will look better. The cost is \$1060 per issue. Excom agreed to accept the extra cost for the upcoming 2021 issue. Then we can assess again whether to continue that in 2022 issues.
4. EMG excom election update. The nominating committee submitted their list of candidates: Caitlin Zera, Robert Robertson, Ken Schechtman and Stephanie Todd. Excom accepted the committee report.
5. E-newsletter – send ideas to Caitlin and Tim by Sept 22. Caroline suggested that we include a link to article about John Muir and his evolved views. She will send link for folks to read. There will be mention of Sept lights out month and link to Oct Dark Skies virtual meeting.
6. Conservation issues:
 1. We received request from MODOT to have a member participate in public input regarding work along I55 south of St Louis County. Some skepticism about the degree to which the public is really considered in these formats, and not certain that the area involved has any environmental issues of note. But we agreed it would be good to have someone participate in the first virtual meeting which is Sept 21. Ken will ask John Feldman if he is interested, if not, Caroline will try to join the meeting.
 2. A fertilizer company (Ostrora) has announced plans to locate a production facility in North St Louis City. They will be located at a site where similar facility used to operate. ST Louis Mayor has welcomed them as source of jobs and tax income. But there are also potential environmental and community harm issues. Also, it is a nitrogen plant and that fertilizer is associated with Big Ag and water pollution. Some of our allies may oppose the plant, but we agreed to wait and

learn from future DNR permits and assessing local community reaction before taking any position.

3. International Dark-Skies Association (MO IDA chapter) conference will be held in Springfield MO Oct 3-4. Stephanie is participating on behalf of Dark Skies MO. Sierra Club will have a table there, local WR group folks will help set it up. There is also a virtual option. We will get a notice in upcoming e-newsletter.

7. Henry provided chapter testimony on the State Energy plan today, which was the St Louis segment of DNR public input schedule. His testimony will be good for chapter monthly report that Gretchen puts together, or it could be for e-newsletter.

8. Outings: We shared John Feldman's written outings report:

"1. CPR training classes are being held at the SC office on Wednesday the 15th and the 22nd. The necessary safety forms will be filled out.

2. The designation of front country versus back country outings has been agreed upon for a lot of the parks near St. Louis. Back country outings require health forms for all participants and a safety plan for the outings leader besides the standard waiver form sign off."

Ken reported that Jim Rhodes has stepped down as outings chair. The outings committee recommends that George Behrens be the chair. Robert moved and Tim seconded a motion to accept that change. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Louise was acting as a 2021 co-chair, we think she is willing to continue in 2021 to assist George, and that is fine.

9. Michael reported that legislative committee will become fully active later this year in preparation for 2022. Today's state veto session was successful insofar as the Governor's veto of SB40 was not overridden, that's the no auto emission testing bill.

10. Next Excom scheduled for Oct 12.