

Sault Naturalists Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 28, 2016

7:00 pm Civic Centre, Biggins Room

Regrets: Angela, Jeff, Tony, Robert, Gail, Cindy, Mark, Jennifer, Carl

Attendees: Ron, Val, Chuck, Jerry, Don, Carrie, Bill,

Guests: None

1) The meeting was called to order at 7 pm

2) Additions to the Agenda

- Wiki workload; discuss in “new business”

3) Revision/Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

- Accepted once updates from Val and Tony incorporated.
 - ACTION: Angela to revise and resend April 7th 2016, minutes
 - Minutes once revised approved by Don and seconded by Bill. Carried.
-

4) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Job Description Publicity on Website

- Ron confirmed description is on Website.

b) Status of EAC; Bill

- Bill put request for members onto Wiki.
- ACTION: Ron to mention need for new EAC member(s) at next program meeting.

c) Youth summit \$350 selection; Carrie

- Proceeding without additional funds to offset travel. See if travel expenses become a barrier.
- Since high school students currently in Grades 9-11 will be eligible for the Sept 2016 Summit; target this group. Ask student nominees to self-identify with teacher reference. Planning to get message out to high schools (science teachers, Ontario first, include CASS) soon.
- Plan to have review applications received with exec committee. Also plan to have student report back to club after Summit.
- ACTION: Carrie to get request for nominees out to High Schools.

d) Program and outing advertising; Cindy

- Deferred

e) Status report on Outing wording/waiver forms; Val

- Waivers
 1. Many types. A sampling of other Naturalists clubs revealed no Waiver.
 2. Four samples from hiking clubs were reviewed.
 3. Not in bad shape with what we have...Some Edits suggested. Consensus leave waiver as is.
- Leader Guides
 1. Amendments requested to leader guidelines to confirm leader's right to exclude unfit or unsafe participants.
- Outing Description
 1. Val provided an example.
 2. What is appropriate for public announced outings (e.g. in SooToday)?
 3. ACTION: Val to provide some points to Cindy...e.g. Location, Activity type, Distance, Meeting time and reference to Website for more complete details.

f) Report on Centennial Park Platform

- Platform not accessible due to high water, apparent damage to one support leg.
- Neighbours not happy with platform and pedestrian traffic.
- Uncertain about mechanics/logistics for moving and where..(move closer to shore or to point).. a summer activity to move/repair/ make accessible. Just winch in top section?
- ACTION: Re-assess in warmer weather.

g) Garlic Mustard Pull May 28

- Need participants; SooNats Executive may be asked to be small group leaders if needed to direct large numbers of participants.

h) Pygmy Snaketail and Riverine Clubtail Project; volunteers

- SooNats Survey is a go. "Sault Naturalists Dragonfly Project – Survey Protocol (2016)" handed out (see attachments).
- Survey June 5 to 26; On Goulais River bank north of Searchmont.
- Exuviae to be collected along assigned transect and brought to Sault College for identification. Adult dragonfly capture is encouraged.
- Club has money for gas \$0.41 per KM and \$30.00/pair for lunch.
- Need to solicit membership as volunteers
- ACTION: Jerry to check out Google Docs and/or Doodle. To see if a registration board can be electronically posted for potential volunteers to access and sign up. To be in place before general request to membership.

i) Science Fest- Sat April 30

- Val and Ron to attend.
- At the Machine Shop.
- Display will focus on bird calls and pictures match game. (Soo College donated tree seedlings as prize)

5) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Treasurer

Canadian Account	\$2,877.65
US Account	\$337.21
GIC #1 (01/13/17)	\$3,956.93
GIC #2 (06/17/16)	\$3,810.83

Some disbursements are pending.

b) Outings

Whitefish Point on Saturday, Tony Walker is leader. Outing is concurrent with Whitefish Point's Spring Fling

c) Programs-

May 3 GLFC Chimney Swift
June 14 GLFC Beech Bark Disease and Emerald Ash Borer

d) Membership

As of April 28, 2016; 146 members, full report filed.

e) Environmental Action Committee Review

Search for members is ongoing

f) Michigan Audubon

Deferred

g) Ontario Nature

- Carrie looking for ideas to take to meeting. Highlights, Challenges, and Local issues (swifts) and what we need help with.
- Chuck suggested clubs need information on environmental legislation being changed in Omnibus bills; such as hunting. Concern; hunting Mourning Doves became legal in Southern Ontario... could hunting Sandhill Cranes be legalized without local input?



h) S.S.M. Trails Committee

- Club is participating in Hub Trail Festival on Canada Day July 1st, 2016
- Stay tuned

i) Publicity- New Brochure Review

- New sample of Brochure circulated. Need to “Left Justify” text under “Outings”. Will put local Bird List on line to match pamphlet if Tony is okay with this approach.

J) Local Citizens Committee Forestry Management

- deferred

OTHER ITEM:

6) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Creek Revitalization Plan; on hold
-

7) REMINDERS

- none
-

8) NEW BUSINESS

a) Swift watch night

b) Fridge Magnet purchase?
500 at \$0.32 each....

c) Nature Observations

- deferred

d) Wiki Workload

- John Lehman asked to be relieved of some duties on Wiki.
 - ACTION: Valerie to take lead on edits to Flickr account especially for outings.
-

ADJOURNMENT

Ron adjourned the meeting at 9:05. Moved by Val, seconded by Don

Sault Naturalists Dragonfly Project - Survey Protocol (2016)

Target Species: Pygmy Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus howei*) and Riverine Clubtail (*Stylurus amnicola*)

When: Last three (3) weeks of June (June 5 to June 26 2016). This period overlaps known emergence periods of the target species.

Frequency: Daily searches and collection of exuviae and adult dragonflies at each site.

Where: Three sites on the Goulais River will be sampled for the presence of pygmy snaketail and riverine clubtail (and other dragonfly species) and will focus on the preferred habitat of these species. At each site, three to five 10 m transects will be established along one side of the river (the most accessible side due to accessibility and safety concerns). Searches will occur within 2m of the water's edge. Transects will be established prior to the survey period.

Sampling: All exuviae observed within 2m of the water's edge will be collected at each site, and every attempt will be made to capture adult dragonflies as encountered. Incidental sampling will occur but will likely vary greatly based on the interest of the surveyor. (Incidental specimens will be clearly labelled as such.)

Collection and Identification: Adult specimens will be individually placed in glassine envelopes and exuviae will be stored in bulk (by transect) in sample jars or other containers. All specimens will be clearly labelled with: 1) a collection/specimen number, 2) Site Location, 3) Transect ID, 4) Date, 5) Surveyor name(s), 6) Protocol (i.e. incidental, standardized). All specimens (of all species) will be identified by an individual experienced in dragonfly identification. Any problematic specimens will be sent to a dragonfly expert for ID confirmation.

Metadata: The follow data will be also be collected during each survey: transect start time, transect end time, temperature, cloud cover, and precipitation condition. If any species at risk are observed, the particulars (i.e. location, time, etc.) of the observation will also be recorded.

Data Management: The raw data (MS Excel format) and a final report will be provided to MNRF (including Colin Jones-NHIC). Specimens will be provided to a national or provincial collection at the discretion of our technical advisors.

ATTACHMENT 1b

Sault Naturalists Dragonfly Project - Data Capture Field Form

This form is meant to capture the particulars of transect surveys, however, any incidental observations (i.e. off transect) can be recorded in the comments section. Also, it is strongly recommended that all species at risk observations are recorded. Location (coordinates) for all incidentals should be provided. Please make sure field forms are completed in full prior to submitting to the data manager.

Lead Surveyor (for transect): _____

Transect ID: _____ Date: _____

of Surveyors (for transect): _____ Sample ID #: _____

Start Time (24:00): _____ End Time (24:00): _____

Temperature (°C): _____ Cloud Cover (10% increments): _____

Precipitation: None Light Rain Moderate/Heavy Rain Fog

Comments: _____

Lead Surveyor (for transect): _____

Transect ID: _____ Date: _____

of Surveyors (for transect): _____ Sample ID #: _____

Start Time (24:00): _____ End Time (24:00): _____

Temperature (°C): _____ Cloud Cover (10% increments): _____

Precipitation: None Light Rain Moderate/Heavy Rain Fog

Comments: _____

Up-to-date Membership Information April 28, 2016

Total No. Memberships not including organizations	2016	2015	2014
Life (paid)	18		
Individual	41	21	3
Family	30	21	1
Student	1	5	
Complimentary senior members	3		
Complimentary for guest speakers	2		
Total Membership	95	47	4
Total memberships	146		
Total # CA	128		
Total # USA	18		
	146		
Organizations, Audubon, Ontario Nature etc.	6		

Date: April 28, 2016

- Memberships for 2015, are memberships that are not due yet or that are due this month
- 3 of the 6 clubs memberships are 3 Canadian and 3 American
- 3 Complimentary memberships are older members, not well at the present time.
- 2 Complimentary are for guest speakers
- Reminder letters were sent to members concerning membership dues
- 1 new family membership this month and 1 new family membership last night
- Welcome letters were sent to new members with information concerning club activities
- Letters send to 4 memberships overdue from 2014 and then will remove from the list if we don't hear back within a month's time.

By: Don and Vivian Hall