



Sault Naturalists Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2017, 7:00 p.m. to 9:08 p.m.

Sault College, Essar Wing

Member	Present	Regrets
Ron Prickett, President	Y	
Chuck Miller, vice President, Trails and Membership Programs	Y	
Angela Henley, Treasurer	Y	
Jerry Kroetsch, Secretary	Y	
Robert Cohen, Member at large		N
Carter Dorscht, Member at large	Y	
Carrie Ginou, Ontario Nature		N
Mark Harvey, Forest Management Planning LCC	Y	
Bill Meades, Environmental Action	Y	
Jeff Robinson, Archives	Y	
Barb Scott, Membership	Y	
Val Walker, Outings	Y	
Vacant, Michigan Audubon Society		
Guest,		

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm

1. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST OR NEW MEMBERS

- a) none

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- none

3. REVISION/APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

- MOTION: “Accept November 7, 2017 Minutes as submitted” by Val, Seconded Carter, Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Roadside Brushing and Monarchs; Michigan -- Barb
 - See attachment “C” for full write up.
 - Office of Chippewa County Roads Commission is in charge of maintaining road right of ways. Any plans to halt mowing of milkweed need to be presented and approved.

- Commission manager was open to hearing any proposals on alternate management of right of ways.
- b) Scope of Roadside Milkweed Protection –Jerry
- See second page of attachment “C” for a proposed Scope
 - Amendments to the Scope are made in underlined text to reflect discussion.
 - Comments are also included to reflect discussion.
 - **MOTION: for 2018 to work with two townships to protect from mowing the ten best 200 m sections of milkweed growing roadside in their township.** Jeff, Seconded Chuck. **Carried**
- c) Meritorious Service Award/Recognition
- An E-mail was shared with suggested criteria for Award
 - Criteria that recipient be a former president of club seemed very limiting
 - Concerns around the table around who gets left out; if we try to formalize a recognition project
 - **MOTION: Move this discussion to next meeting for further discussion** by Angela, Second Barb, **and Carried.**
- d) Bird List for Fort St. Joseph Copying Cost – Carter
- The cost was estimated to be \$100.
 - **MOTION: to fund printing of Fort St Joseph Bird List** by Chuck, seconded Angela, **Carried.**
- e) Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol –Val
- Update, Sault College is still interested (Ryan Namespetra),
 - Next step decide which streams to survey.
 - Les Stanfield, author of the 2010 OSAP Manual, maybe offering training this spring in Sault Ste. Marie.
 - **ACTION: Val to continue to be contact and bring items forward as warranted.**
- f) Gear Selling Protocol, Robert
- Some discussion on other options to sell gear e.g. SooToday and Kijiji
 - Decision to not detract from the silent auction at the AGM in February
 - Will delay in offering the option to display gear for sale at meetings until March (Transactions would be between buyer and seller; club is not an intermediary.)
- g) Bequeathal Forms / Option on Membership form -- Barb
- Completed; Option is now included on Membership Form.
- h) Duck Feeding Sign Makeup
- City is okay with signs to discourage feeding ducks bread.
 - Discussion on whether “Please don’t feed us Bread” sign were positive or negative.

- Could it be made more positive?
- Better with more information or less?
- Concern re costs for quality signs
- Many options on line.

5. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

a) Treasurer's Report (Angela)

- See attachment "A". new activity is "bolded"
- No concerns or issues (clear format)
- Have line for "Platform fund" need similar for Life Memberships and Projects.

b) Outings (Val)

- Chuck on this weekend, to Tilley Creek Conservation Reserve.
- Call for winter outings made, have a draft with about five openings.

c) Programs (Chuck)

- December 12th at Bayliss Library is "open mike" night and social. Membership is encouraged to bring snacks and/ or pictures of Nature.
- At Bayliss January to May (Except AGM)
- Meal at AGM...Chicken with two salads (quinoa and bowtie pasta) ...
- \$35 Canadian is target price for ticket.
- AGM February 13, 2018 is tentatively booked at Sault College.

d) Membership Report (Barb)

- See attachment "B"
- A few people get postal mail reminders.
- Ron asked about overdue members when to strike from distribution lists

e) Environmental Action Committee Review (Bill)

- Seven club members have agreed to help with the review of the Algoma 2020-2040 Forest Management Plan; Bill Meades, Dave Euler, Mark Harvey, Ron Pickett, Don Hall , Carter Dorscht, Mark Olivier.
- The group met on November 28 and Dave Euler provided an overview of the planning process and the use of models to forecast the various trade-offs for wildlife, social and economic values.
- Next meeting will be in January to discuss how we can input to the Algoma Local Citizens Committee ``Desired Forest and Benefits`` meeting to be held in the spring.

f) Michigan Audubon (vacant)

- ...

g) Ontario Nature (Carrie)

- no report

h) S.S.M. Trails Advisory Committee (Chuck)

- Met to discuss Second line cycle route options. Options out for public comment.
- See SooToday Traffic Study.

i) Publicity (Vacant)

- Any ideas let Ron know

j) Local Citizen's Committee Forest Management (Mark)

- No activity, another meeting this month.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a) Creek Revitalization

- Talked to Catherine, now talking to Planning Board and Conservation Authority (will include Ron, Val, Chuck and Peter Burch)
- Environmental considerations are part of the new city master plan.

7. UPDATES AND REMINDERS

- none

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Repeat action items at end of Minutes Jerry
-
- Mark brought up whether we should comment on Presidents Trumps reduction of protected area in Utah. Yes. Ron to input a reply via the Sierra Club's petition website.

9. NATURE OBSERVATIONS

- Otters at Tower Lake
- Lots of Beaver activity on Saint Mary's River

MOTION: Meeting to adjourn at 9:05 pm, Carter, seconded Bill, Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry

ATTACHMENT "A" TREASURER'S REPORT

For December 5th Executive Meeting (Bolded text is new since last report) Canadian Account

Date	Description	Category	Amount	Balance
31-May	Balance forward			3,015.64
June	Printing& Postage		- 52.26	
	Bank Fees		- 5.33	
	Science Fair		- 22.04	
	Dragonfly		- 37.05	2,898.96
August	Membership deposits		+180.00	3,078.96
September	Hub Trail		-179.61	
October	Ontario Nature		-350.00	
November	Outings		- 10.52	
	President (printing)		- 16.50	
	Dragonfly		- 80.61	2,441.75
November	Membership Deposits		+523.80	
	Donation		+400.00	3,365.52
December	Membership Deposits		+224.00	3,589.52
	Bank Charges Jun-October		- 21.54	3,567.98

US Account

Date	Description	Category	Amount	Balance
1-Jun	Balance Forward			592.21
	no activity in Summer			
GICs				
#1	matures 01/18/18			4,010.35
#2	matures 06/19/18			4,110.37
Platform Funds	(in C\$ chequing acct)		1,050.91	

ATTACHMENT “B” MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total No. Memberships	
Life (paid)	20
Individual paid	52
Family paid	42
Student paid	6
Total Paid Memberships (sum of the above)	120
Complimentary senior members	5
Complimentary for guest speakers	4
In arrears (individual and family)	19
Total memberships*	148
Total # CA*	131
Total # USA*	17
Organizations, Audubon, Ontario Nature, etc.	6

*Sum of paid, in arrears, and complimentary

Date: December 5, 2017

By: Barb Scott

Michigan Information and Scope

Michigan Road Vegetation Maintenance

The responsibility for maintaining roads in Chippewa County (including Sault Sainte Marie) lies with the Chippewa County Road Commission. This includes interstate or federal highways (e.g., I-75), state highways (e.g., M-134) and county roads (e.g., 3 Mile Road). They do some vegetation maintenance themselves, but most of the roads are maintained by contractors. This balance is shifting in the other direction, as the county is moving more towards doing the mowing and woody plant cutting themselves.

The road right of way varies from 33 feet to 100 feet from the center of the road and may not be consistent even on the same road. Mowing takes place about once (at most twice) each summer, usually in June or early July. The mowing width from the edge of the road is 9 feet, which is the width of a commercial mower. This does not vary with the width of the right of way.

Woody vegetation, such as saplings, are mowed on an as-needed basis, and the road commission tries to mow before the saplings are more than 5 inches DBH (diameter at breast height). For this mowing, the entire right of way is mowed.

Above all, visibility and safety are the overriding concerns when deciding what to mow and how often. However, they are flexible in how this is accomplished when it comes to special situations. Roadsides with federally listed plants such as dwarf lake iris and Houghton’s goldenrod are maintained in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. They are working with the consortium Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area to eliminate non-native phragmites along roadsides.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has a new Adopt-A-Landscape program for organizations which allows for the following:

- Planting and establishing wildflowers
- Controlling weeds on right of way
- Ancillary mowing
- Tree trimming and/or removal
- Planting and establishing landscaping within interchanges, boulevards, rest areas, roadside parks, etc.
- Planting and establishing trees, shrubs, and/or flowers along state highways
- Removing graffiti as needed from one or more highway structures

Volunteer groups/organizations may be charged a discounted permit fee or even have the fee waived in some cases. Participating groups generally provide for all costs, materials, labor, and equipment necessary for the project. A valid Certificate of Insurance shall be on file with MDOT for the duration of the permit and license agreement. More information can be found here: http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9621_11041_51760-258747--,00.html

Scope of Roadside Milkweed Protection for Monarch Butterflies

Proposal for 2018

- Work with two Townships (MacDonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Twp. and one on St Joe's Island)
- To protect from mowing the ten best 200 m sections of milkweed growing roadside in their township.

Proposal for 2019

- Expand Project to all Townships East of Sault Ste. Marie as far as Bruce Mines and _____ in Michigan. with the objective:
- To protect from mowing the ten best 200 m sections of Milkweed growing roadside in their respective area.

Detailed Tasks for 2018

- Write a best practise for outset of project before talking to Townships.
- Engage Club and determine interest in commencing.
- Meet with Townships; explain objective, get feedback/buy in.
- Stress Safety, Mowing will only be curtailed where practical (e.g. not near intersections, not near driveways, not on both side of the same segment of road).
- Determine if mower operator can select areas to bypass, on the fly... or whether club needs to flag areas with good milkweed production in advance of mowing dates (approx. 10, no more than 200 M long).
- Map areas.
- Follow-up whether Monarchs are using "saved" Milkweed.
- Follow-up whether halting mowing encourages more or fewer milkweed. Speculate whether same areas can be "no mow zones" next year or whether mowing in next season is beneficial.
- Rewrite and improve the best practise for continuing project.
- Engage Club and determine interest in continuing.

Comment from December 5 Exec Meeting.

- Need to revisit when Mark Olivier returns with research on Monarch Biology and /or Federal Management Guidelines for Monarchs
- Underlined text above was added as a direct input at Dec5th Executive meeting.