

**Sault Naturalists Executive Meeting**  
**June 04, 2015**  
**7:00 pm**



The meeting was held at the Civic Centre, Sault Ste. Marie Ontario.

Attendance: Ron Prickett, Gail Jones, Chuck Miller, Carl Linhart, Bill Meades, Jeff Robinson, Robert D. Cohen, Christine MacHattie, Don Hall, Val Walker

1. Call to order at 7:01
2. Additions to the agenda: Swift Grant Progress Report
3. Motion: Accept the minutes as printed - moved by Chuck, seconded by Robert. Motion carried.
4. Business arising from the minutes from last meeting:
  - a) Revised Budget 2015- Projected on 130 members  
Based on 124 members (excluding Group and Complimentary) paying in full, we have a budget deficit of \$67.35. Members in arrears (42) will be notified by email to pay their membership dues.  
An error was noted in that the Platform Repair cost was not revised since the last meeting. Ron was to revise the budget with a separate line for the Platform Repairs cost of \$1000 and a withdrawal of this amount from the Platform Repair Account.  
Note: Ron revised the budget shortly after the meeting (attached). The budget now shows a surplus of \$232.75.
  - b) Capital Projects Fund/Revision of Membership Forms  
The Executive considered ways to solicit funds for capital (Special) projects, including a box on the membership form where members could donate funds (as discussed last meeting). Robert brought forward an option to tastfully solicit members to bequeath funds to the Club.  
  
**ACTION:** Executive members to investigate options / methods on how to ask the membership to consider bequeathing funds to the Club. Don to check with Ontario Nature. Carl to check with The Nature Conservancy.
  - c) BioBlitz  
This event takes place June 6,7 and should be good to go. Dave has included a special activity for children.
  - d) Platform inspection and repair  
A follow up work party will finish off a few more repairs on the Pumpkin Point Platform. Don says only a few people will be required and a work party will be organized for late June, early July.

The Centennial Park Platform is currently surrounded by water and is inaccessible. An extension of the boardwalk may be required if water levels are expected to remain high for the next few years.

**ACTION:** The Platform Inspection Committee to recommend steps for platform repair which will occur prior to September.

- e) Grant options for platform repairs  
Chuck reported on his findings:
- Ontario Trillium Foundation – Grants are awarded in 6 action areas including ‘Green People’. Ecosystem Protection/ Restoration Fund. Applications are submitted in July for projects beginning in October. There is a Capital Grants Stream which funds activities such as building and repairing structures with grants \$5000 – \$150,000
  - Mountain Equipment Coop – Access & Activity Fund – merchandise / perhaps funding
  - Laird Township – Solicit the township for funds to repair platforms
- f) Swift Monitoring days/Festival  
The National Roost Monitoring Blitz covered 4 count days. Val completed the forms for the Post Office chimney and will be submitting the results to the national database shortly. Counts were variable from a low of 110 to a high of 1145. Birds are currently using the chimney but numbers are expected to stabilize at approximately 200. It is believed these are resident, non-breeding birds.  
The Swift Festival on Sunday May 24 had over 90 participants on the Cenotaph steps. Soo Today journalist Dave Helwig covered the event. Val sent out several images and a commentary on the event as an email to the membership. In addition, two Soo Today articles (one on the Swift Festival, one on the funding announcement) and the Local 2 video coverage was sent to the membership
- g) New Ontario Nature representative  
Carrie Ginou has offered to assume this position. Thanks, Carrie.
- h) Creek Revitalization Report  
The Creek Rehabilitation Committee completed a field assessment of several urban creeks in the west end of the city between 3<sup>rd</sup> Line and Baseline. The Conservation Authority in the 1970’s constructed drainage ditches and channelized the Bennett, East and West Davignon Creeks south of 2<sup>nd</sup> Line. Chuck submitted a draft report on the committee’s findings (DRAFT attached). The Committee believes there is much potential to develop some of the drainage channels for recreational purposes (non-vehicular paths) and to naturalize some areas (plant trees, remove garbage).

**ACTION:** The Creek Revitalization Committee to plan a course of action with the Sault Ste. Marie and Region Conservation Authority (Rhonda Bateman) in the next 2 weeks.

i) Renaming St. Joseph Island property  
Dave is still negotiating with Ontario Nature regarding the name of the reserve. Dave will require assistance in digging the post holes for the new sign prior to the July 04 celebration.

j) Chimney Swift Project (added)  
**ACTION:** Jennie Pierce and Ron to add milestones and minor revisions to the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement prior to the July 12 deadline. The agreement will be resubmitted for signature by June 26.

5. Committee and other reports

a) Treasurer (Gail) – June 04 Financial Statement

CDN Account (CIBC).....	\$ 2187.28
US Account (Huntington Bank).....	\$ 192.21
GIC #1.....	\$ 3894.62
GIC #2.....	\$ 3750.82

**Motion:** GIC #2 to be re-invested with the CIBC on June 17 for an additional 1 year term – moved by Jeff, seconded by Gail.  
Motion carried.

b) Outings (Val)  
BioBlitz is on this weekend. Several people are assisting as taxon group leaders and with registration.

Don & Viv's Bar River Bike & Birds outing rescheduled from Saturday June 13 to Wed June 10.

Angela Henley's Kayak Les Cheneaux Islands on Saturday June 27 is rescheduled to Sunday June 28 due to a conflict with the annual Bridge Walk.

**ACTION:** Val to check with John Lehman about archiving emailed outings reports

**ACTION:** Carl to consider another outing for Saturday June 13 and let Val know.

c) Programs May 12 to 19 (Ron)  
Programs have tentatively been booked for September 2015 to June 2016. Jeanne Mannesto is now on the Program Committee. Thanks, Jeanne. Still looking for a Program Coordinator. Next program June 09, Bill and Flo – Hawaii

d) Membership (Don & Viv)  
Don submitted Viv's report to Ron. Four members will not be renewing their memberships for a variety of reasons. Two new members have joined.

A Family Life Membership option was discussed to be offered at ~30% more than a single life membership.

**ACTION:** To consider and discuss a Family Life Membership option in September. Don to determine of the 17 Life Members, how many are couples.

- e) Environmental Action Committee (Bill) - Nothing to report
- f) Michigan Audubon (Carl)  
June 05-07, Cerulean Warbler Festival, Battle Creek, MI (520 km away)  
Carl has asked Tom Allen about roosting / nesting Chimney swifts and apparently swifts have nested at Vermillion Point in the past.  
Carl has noted that an abandoned school (Jefferson) in Sault, Michigan has an uncapped chimney that looks very suitable for swifts. He will continue to monitor but as yet, no swifts have been observed there.
- g) Ontario Nature (Carrie)– no report
- h) STAC (Tony) – no report

6. Old Business

- a) Beta Test Results & Hub Trail Brochure  
As NORDIK cannot provide a link to a webpage for each of the plant species documented on the trail, the only option is to provide a link to the home page of a botanical website for every species. As a result, the reader must search the website for the plant of interest. This is an extra step and can be confusing if there is a variation in the common name of the plant.  
After some discussion, it was thought that rather than trying to link to a specific website for each plant, suggest the reader use the MichiganFlora and GoBotany websites and/or Google for further information and images. In addition, both common and scientific names for each plant species should be provided in tables or in an appendix.

**ACTION:** Rob Routledge and Ron to continue to revise common names and include scientific names. Michigan Flora, GoBotany and Google to be suggested as websites for more information.

- b) Updates and reminders - None
- c) New Business
  - a) Nature Observations  
Don reported 3 or 4 Whip-poor-wills at around 10 pm on Watson Rd.  
Jeff reported a Red Fox denning under his shed in the east end of town.

Motion: To adjourn – moved by Gail, seconded by Robert.  
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

		<b>2014 Actual</b>		<b>2015</b>
	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Can. Insurance			\$ 1,300.00	
USA Insurance			\$ -	
Postage/Envelopes				
PO Box Rental			\$ 185.00	
Bank Fees			\$ 60.00	
Newsletter			\$ 50.00	
Postage/Photocopy Snail Mailers			\$ 50.00	
AGM Report			\$ 50.00	
Misc. Supplies				
Central United				
Ontario Nature Mem			\$ 165.00	
Ont. Nature Conf.			\$ 250.00	
Bird Count Rm Rental			\$ 15.00	
Program			\$ 200.00	
Outings			\$ 50.00	
Membership			\$ 140.00	
Environmental Action			\$ 50.00	
President's			\$ 70.00	
Secretary's			\$ 75.00	
Treasurer's			\$ 42.00	
<b>Donations</b>				
Rotary Club(Sci Fair)			\$ 100.00	
Nature Canada			\$ 75.00	
LSSU Science Award				
Bayliss Library			\$ 100.00	
<b>Other</b>				
Wallwork Sign			\$ 150.00	
BioBiltz			\$ 200.00	
Incorporation			\$ 221.67	
Capital Projects				
Guest Speaker Fees				
Annual Mtg. Costs/Revenue				\$ 496.97
Silent Auction				\$ 248.20
Donations				
Regional Meeting				
<b>Income</b>				
Can. Membership		105		
USA Membership		23		
Individual		\$ 1,200.00		\$ 1,475.00
Family		\$ 1,200.00		\$ 1,410.00
Student		\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00
Life		\$ 191.25		\$ 191.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 2,601.25</b>	<b>\$3,598.67</b>	<b>\$ 3,831.42</b>
<b>Surplus(Deficit)</b>		<b>\$ 2,601.25</b>		<b>\$ 232.75</b>
Platform Repair Costs			\$ 1,001.00	
Platform Repair Account				\$ 1,001.00
<b>Paid Membership</b>				
Student		1		1
Individual		60		59
Family		48		47
Life Members		17		17
<b>Total Membership</b>		<b>125</b>		<b>124</b>

Field Notes – Chuck Miller

Creeks of Western Sault Ste Marie  
 South of the Third Line  
 May and June 2015

The creeks from west to east include Bennett, (man-made drainage channel #1), West Davignon, (man-made drainage channel #2), and East Davignon Creeks (man-made drainage channel #3).

The Creeks were examined where they crossed public roads south of the Third



Line up to the point where they enter property owned by Essar Steel. The surveys were visual and not extensive.



### Aquifer Recharge Area

#### GENERAL

There generally is an aquifer north of the Third Line with multiple seepages and springs. The creeks then enter the built up area of the city – where in the 1970's there was significant man-made channelization to control flooding, two of the creeks also enter man-made underground tunnels.

#### General Appearance Man-Made Channels



#### BENNETT CREEK (and West Davignon Diversion)

This creek's west branch crosses the Second Line near the Leigh Bay Road it is tea coloured and mildly turbid – it had a light flow volume and was generally well shaded until it joins a man-made drainage channel at the Base Line.



Bennett – West Davignon Diversion Channel – Base Line Rd

This creek's east branch crosses the Second Line east of Allen Road – has moderate flow and is clear and well shaded. This branch joins a man-made channel just north of Wallace Ter that is a diversion of West Davignon Creek. The diversion channel continues until the creek branches join north of the Base Line.

#### WEST DAVIGNON CREEK

This creek's west branch has multiple tributaries that cross the Third Line west of Goulais Road – There is moderate flow – streams are in natural channels and well shaded – there are some large culverts. Some culverts are perched. The water is clear.



Natural Creek – Bennett Creek

The most easterly branch beginning near Chippewa Road is man-made and not moving water. The water then follows a man-made channel north of the Second Line – a small diversion splits an ecological flow volume into the original creek



following Wallace Ter but the bulk of the flow is diverted into a drainage connected to Bennett Creek.

This creek's east branch starts at the Second Line near Roosevelt Ave and continues to run south east until it enters a channel headed west along Wallace Ter and south past Glasgow Park. Water is flowing but the volume is light – the creek is mostly naturally vegetated and shaded- despite its man-made channel parallel Glasgow Park.

#### MAN-MADE DRAINAGE CHANNEL #2

This channel starts north of the Korah Road pond and flows in a man-made channel to just north of Wallace Ter where it goes underground. Flow is constant but light.



Creeks Go Underground

#### EAST DAVIGNON CREEK

This creek north of Rossmore Rd and east of Korah Rd is a natural creek- with a clear, moderate, flow of water. South of Rossmore Rd it follows a man-made channel until it goes underground at Farwell Rd just south of the Second Line.