

MINUTES

Friends of the Holland Sand Prairie

March 23, 2015

Present: Pete Putnam, Barb Putnam, Jay Fernholz, Brian Gray, Marilyn Pedretti, Pat Caffrey, Jim Rogala, Mike Hoffman, Bob Leum, Michael Nied, Abby Church, Levi Plath, Megan Beine, Judy Peterson

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Putnam.

Minutes: Motion by Fernholz/Rogala to approve the January 12, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gray reported the balance with HAF was \$2,194.96 at the end of August 2014 and \$2,566.58 at the end of December. The difference reflects \$370.00 in contributions and \$1.62 in interest income. The balance increased to \$2,667.32 through the end of February 2015. The increase reflects \$100 in contributions and \$0.74 in interest income. Motion by Caffrey/Hoffman to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Introductions: Introductions were made. Levi Plath introduced himself as the new Land Manager for MVC. Megan Beine introduced herself as a UW-L student who will be conducting her service learning project through MVC and offered to assist with the Open Prairie.

New on the prairie: Putnam and Hoffman cleared the perimeter so that the perimeter trails can be cut. Lengthy discussion took place concerning mowing the trails. The DNR has indicated that trails lead to an increase in predator traffic. In addition, mowing moves unwanted seed from one area to another. Therefore, trails should be kept to a minimum.

Open Prairie May 2nd: Rogala and Hoffman reported on the event plans. Beine passed around two samples of a flyer. Church will provide tables. Leum will provide a butterfly print to be used for a raffle drawing. Rogala, Caffrey and Church will organize the burn demonstration. Hoffman will provide press with information.

MVC planning: Hoffman reported on his attendance at a planning meeting between the MVC and The Prairie Enthusiasts. Plath passed out a priority list and map and discussed their plan to concentrate on invasives. Church reported there are currently no plans to bring in the Challenge Academy. Discussion followed concerning possible projects for the UW-L environmental studies group.

Website & Facebook: Rogala paid \$67.90 for a two year renewal of the website. He will work with Pedretti on getting a receipt for reimbursement. Carlson set up a Facebook page and asked for pictures.

Blue Bird houses: It was noted that the DNR suggested these houses are inappropriate for a State Natural Area. Hoffman will maintain the houses and eliminate as they deteriorate.

Dog signage: Rogala provided two laminated signs that would prohibit dogs on the prairie during the nesting season (April 1 to August 15). He will install them this week.

Fundraiser: Putnam noted some suggestions for fundraising: narrow strip insert added to the current brochure, donation box, facebook, appeal to current email listing, membership. Item will be discussed next meeting.

Next regular FHSP meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by B. Putnam/Gray to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
M. Pedretti